Hafa Adai!

COTA donates 300 bus passes to NMTech students. PAGE 3
DHS' public charge final rule goes into effect on Dec. 23. PAGE 5

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 253

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

BOS sought $1.5M BOOST grant

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bank of Saipan, the same bank chosen by the Office of the Governor to administer the Torres administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity and Stability Together, or BOOST Program, reportedly applied for $1.5 million in grant funds and received the largest award thus far.

Bank of Saipan president and CEO John Arroyo confirmed for members of a CNMI House of Representatives joint committee yesterday that BOS did apply for a BOOST grant award in the

See BOS on Page 4

Clemency recommended for 9 inmates

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole has recommended that the CNMI governor pardon and grant clemency to nine parolees.

All five members of the CNMI Board of Parole voted Friday in favor of recommending clemency for parolees Olen K. Jacob, Daniel Quitugua, Jose Rabauliman, Natividad Sablan, Geraldine Sebaklim, Kenny Cruz, Alfredo Saures, Ambrosio Ogumoro, and Edward Deleon Guerrero—all of whom had applied for a grant of clemency.

According acting chief parole officer Jason Lizama,

See CLEMENCY on Page 4

11 people seriously hurt amid turbulence on Hawaii flight

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Severe turbulence rocked a flight from Phoenix to Honolulu last Sunday, seriously injuring 11 people in what an Hawaiian Airlines official called an isolated and unusual event.

Jon Snook, the airline's chief operating officer, said the airline hasn't experienced "an incident of this nature in

See PEOPLE on Page 4

Waterline break repaired

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A 16-inch waterline break that triggered an emergency water outage and damaged the eastbound lane of the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road next to the Chalan Kiya Mobil gas station yesterday morning has now been repaired.

See WATERLINE on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water operators are seen performing an emergency waterline repair on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road near the Chalan Kiya Mobil Gas Station.

INSIDE

LOCAL
The MVA's 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration was a joyous occasion.
PAGE 7

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
We've all heard of New Year's resolutions. But what about fixes for your home?
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
After a monthlong trial and days of deliberations, jurors found Harvey Weinstein guilty of rape.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Special assistant for Transportation Alfreda Camacho-Maratita, sixth from left, hands the 300 bus passes to Northern Marianas Technical Institute Human Resources and operations manager Char Quitano, and are joined by NMTech faculty and staff at the NMTech facility in Lower Base last Dec. 14.

COTA donates 300 bus passes to NMTech students

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority donated 300 bus passes to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute last Dec. 14 to support its students' commute to and from the campus in Lower Base.

Alfreda Camacho-Maratita, the special assistant for Transportation, was joined by COTA staff Megan Agulto and Prestin Saralu in presenting the donated tickets at the NMTech campus.

"As we will be welcoming new and ongoing students this coming spring 2023, we at NMTech are grateful for such a generous donation," said NMTech representatives.

Camacho-Maratita also invited NMTech students to visit COTA's new facility in Lower Base to learn more about their buses and service pit—an integrated learning opportunity for NMTech's automotive technology students.

According to the COTA website, COTA was created to develop public transportation on Saipan and provide alternative transportation options through the use of their seven-seater vans, Call-a-Ride Service.

NMTech said that next semester's automotive technology students will take advantage of the invitation and learning opportunity to visit COTA. "The NMTech automotive curriculum directly ties into the type of services [COTA] provide, wherein their employees can learn more of the service and maintenance of their vehicles," said NMTech.

NMTech offers classes in Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Hotel & Restaurant, and courses in the construction field, including Carpentry, Electrical, Welding, HVAC, Construction Craft Laborer, and Electronics Systems Technology under the National Center for Construction in Education and Research, a nationally recognized certificate in the United States.

For more information on how to join the NMTech family, call the NMTech office at (670)-235-6684 or email admissions@nmtechcnmi.org. ***(Leigh Gases)***

ARMATECH

Parking Management System Installer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 I Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/CGC-ZERO SUICIDE PROGRAM-004
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DEC 23RD, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROGRAM EVALUATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE AND DATA COLLECTION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

ISLAND TRAINING SOLUTIONS

WE ARE HIRING!

We are looking for an energetic, assertive and self-motivated individual to work directly with the President of the company in a dynamic setting. The right person must have the confidence to actively network and be an effective liaison on behalf of the company; be comfortable expressing ideas, concepts and ideas for the improvement of the company & customers; and also have the ability to adapt and respond effectively to company and customer needs. Full or Part-time applicants welcome.

OPEN POSITION:

Project Assistant

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently and be a self-starter
- Competent with Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Can update website and social media platforms
- Able to organize, compile, and interpret date
- Have reliable transportation

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR RESUME TO:
islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

MORE INFORMATION:
670-287-7037
www.islandtrainingcnmi.com

Self-reliance training brings LDS church leaders to Guam

Self-reliance leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Palau, Saipan, Guam, and the islands of the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae) recently participated in a training session in Guam that expanded on the scope of self-reliance being taught within the church.

William H.K. Davis, the Micronesia Guam Self-Reliance director, brought together the self-reliance leaders to Guam to gain more knowledge and skills in how to train and oversee self-reliance classes on topics of finance, emotional health, addiction recovery, finding joy in the Gospel, finding a better job, starting a business, and eating healthy and being active.

Classes were conducted by Davis, assisted by the Jenkins couple, who are called as the Micronesia Guam Self-Reliance senior couple missionaries.

Just in time for the holidays, this group of leaders will return to their communities inspired and fortified to start the new year with added knowledge on how to more effectively facilitate classes that promote self-reliance among the people on the islands.

Church elder Albert E. Bowen explained that the Church is not satisfied with any system that leaves able people permanently dependent, "and insists, on the contrary, that the true function and office of giving, is to help people [get] into a position where they can help themselves and thus be free." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

William H.K. Davis, the Micronesia Guam Self-Reliance director, poses with self-reliance leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Palau, Saipan, Guam, and the islands of the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae) during a training session in Guam.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Weightlifting Competition set

To all weightlifters and persons interested in weightlifting, the CNMI Weightlifting Competition will be held on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe, Saipan.

There will be no entry fee for members of CNMI Weightlifting and a $20 entry fee for non-members.

Entry forms may be obtained from Jeanne Rayphand at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. office in Gualo Rai, Saipan. Entries must be received by Rayphand on or before Dec. 31, 2022. ***(PR)***

Public warned of rough seas

A small craft advisory is in effect until 6am CHST today, Wednesday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, seas of 7 to 10 feet will be present the coastal waters of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until 6am today.

Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

A northwest swell entering the area will help to increase seas back up to 10 feet. Seas are expected to drop below 10 feet by Wednesday morning as the northwest swell is expected to be short-lived, and the east swell is also expected to decrease slightly as well.

A small craft advisory means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power service interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Dec. 23, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

- Time: 9am to 12pm
- Area(s) Affected: China Town and Gualo Rai.

Momentary Power Service Interruption

Time: 9am to 9:30am and 11:30am to 12pm

- Area(s) affected: Garapan and Upper Housing areas.
- Purpose: To relocate the existing air brake switch along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in China Town.
- Water well(s) affected: Depending on the tank level, customers in the areas of As Falape and Gualo Rai will be affected.
- Wastewater facility affected: Temporary bypass will be affected; however, wastewater personnel will monitor.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

AK SIGNATURE USED CARS
Say Yes!
Get Approved With $1,000 DOWN PAYMENT on any used car
Multi-Point Inspection by CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS!
FREE 3 YEAR SERVICE on Toyota & Lexus models.
Quality Used Cars are Here at AK
SP22T0209 2019 TOYOTA CAMRY $24,999* 3 YEARS FREE SERVICE
SOLD WAS $19,999 YOU PAY $13,999* SP22P0143 2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON FULLY LOADED
3 YEARS FREE SERVICE WAS $25,999 YOU PAY $22,999* SP22P0177 2015 TOYOTA 4RUNNER
3 YEARS FREE SERVICE WAS $25,999 YOU PAY $22,999* SP22T0180 2016 TOYOTA 4RUNNER
3 YEARS FREE SERVICE SOLD $19,999* SP22P0225 2020 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
3 YEARS FREE SERVICE $20,999* SP22T0215 2017 TOYOTA RAV4 LE
3 YEARS FREE SERVICE $21,999* SP22T0222 2018 TOYOTA RAV4 LE
3 YEARS FREE SERVICE $22,999* SP22F0207 2019 TOYOTA RAV4 LE
3 YEARS FREE SERVICE $24,999* SP22F0212 2017 TOYOTA SIENNA
3 YEARS FREE SERVICE $25,999* SP22P0195 2016 TOYOTA 4RUNNER
SOLD WAS $32,999 YOU PAY $25,999* SP22P0163 2019 NISSAN FRONTIER 4X4
3 YEARS FREE SERVICE $29,999* SP22T0216 2019 TOYOTA RAV4 ADVENTURE
$29,999* SP22T0213 2021 HYUNDAI PALISADE SEL
*On Approved Credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for details.
Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 234-5911
Showroom Hours:
Monday to Saturday 8am to 5 pm
HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.
ONLINE SHOPPER – AKsaipan.com

87 childcare providers attend monitoring tool orientation

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 87 participants from nine childcare centers and one home provider completed an orientation on the newly revised CCDF Reach Higher CNMI Monitoring Tool at the Kagman Community Center last Dec. 17, 2022.

A total of 87 participants from nine childcare centers and one home provider completed last Dec. 17, 2022, an orientation on the newly revised CCDF Reach Higher CNMI Monitoring Tool at the Kagman Community Center.

Coaching staff from Evergreen Learning conducted this nine-hour session, which offered insights on how the monitoring tool will be utilized during quality care inspections. The session also provided an overview of the CCDF program and allowed attendees to ask essential questions about elements of the tool and other requirements aligned to health and safety and quality standards.

This training was made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, CNMI CCDF Program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. ***(PR)***

PEOPLE

From Page 1

recent history." The flight was full, carrying 278 passengers and 10 crew members, he said during an afternoon news conference.

Jim Ireland, director of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services, said 20 people were taken to hospitals, including 11 people deemed to be in serious condition.

At least one person was reported to have been rendered unconscious but all patients were awake and talking when they arrived at hospitals, he said.

Patients suffered cuts, including to the head, as well as bumps and bruises. Some people were nauseous and vomited as a result of extreme motion, he said. Altogether 36 people received treatment.

"We are also very happy and we feel fortunate that there were not any deaths or other critical injuries. And we're also very hopeful that all will recover and make a full recovery," Ireland said.

Snook said three flight attendants were among those taken to hospitals.

Passenger Kaylee Reyes told Hawaii News Now that her mother had just sat down when the turbulence hit and did not have a chance to buckle her safety belt.

CLEMENCY

From Page 1

all five board members—two from Saipan, two from Rota, and one from Tinian—unanimously supported that a recommendation for clemency be forwarded to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to pardon these parolees.

Despite the Board of Parole's recommendation, Torres still has the final say and he can grant or deny clemency for any one of the nine parolees.

Prior to the clemency hearing last Friday, the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division opposed a grant of clemency for three of the nine parolees: Quitugua, Rabauliman, and Deleon Guerrero.

According to Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds, Quitugua should not be granted clemency because he is a habitual offender who has not completed the conditions of his sentence, among other reasons.

"We have determined that Quitugua has not actually completed the conditions of his sentence because he should be serving his probation sentence of 10 years upon release [from] imprisonment and should not be considered for pardon until this condition has been met," he said.

As for Rabauliman, Hinds pointed out that Rabauliman was convicted by trial and does not deserve any leniency nor does he deserve to be granted any clemency, considering that the crimes he committed are considered the most heinous crimes.

"Rabauliman was arrested for the charges of rape, oral copulation, kidnapping, and assault and battery. Rabauliman was tried before a jury on Dec. 20, 1999, at the Superior Court and was found guilty. He was sentenced to 41 years, all suspended except for 30 years. Even after the trial, Rabauliman used various means to seek sympathy. Granting clemency or pardon implies that these crimes are not taken seriously and sends a message that, despite the nature of the acts committed by Rabauliman, a grant of commutation or pardon will grant Rabauliman with forgiveness and relief [from] the legal consequences imposed on him by the law. Given these circumstances and the seriousness of the crime, the Office of the Attorney General opposes any grant of commutation or pardon to Rabauliman," said Hinds.

As for Deleon Guerrero, Hinds said the OAG strongly opposes the grant of clemency because Deleon Guerrero was convicted of a violent crime.

"Given these aggravating circumstances and the seriousness of the crime, the OAG opposes any grant of commutation or clemency to Deleon Guerrero. He was convicted of very serious aggravated, violent crimes, therefore it is highly important to consider the severity of these crimes, and the violent nature of the acts committed," he said.

WATERLINE

From Page 1

Water operators of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. worked through two consecutive shifts starting at 5:35am to perform the emergency waterline repair, which has now restored water services to Chalan Laulau, portions of Gualo Rai, and south Garapan.

A water service interruption was in effect since Monday afternoon in the areas of As Terlaje, Chalan Laulau Middle Road and Beach Road, a portion of Gualo Rai on Middle Road, and south of Garapan on Beach Road from the Horiguchi Building to the Bank of Saipan branch.

Due to the extensive repairs and damage to the road, CUC closed the two eastbound lanes on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero across the Chalan Kiya Mobil gas station, and motorists were advised to proceed with caution when driving through the area.

CUC is now working closely with local vendors to restore the damaged asphalt on the road.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho said that they have been looking for a source of funding to enable CUC to replace the 16-inch water main on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, which serves the majority of the central area of Saipan.

BOS

From Page 1

amount of $1.5 million.

However, the bank was only awarded a little over 30% of their request, or $500,000. The Bank of Saipan, Arroyo said, received the largest award under the BOOST program thus far.

Arroyo, who later conceded that the Bank of Saipan shouldn't have applied for the grant to begin with, said that he prepared the application packet but it was signed and submitted by BOS finance manager Arnold Pascua last August.

Bank of Saipan's application was later reviewed by BOOST panel member William "Wil" Castro, chief of staff of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Although Arroyo did not disclose when Bank of Saipan was awarded their BOOST grant, he did confirm that two separate checks worth $250,000 were awarded to BOS on two separate occasions.

"I wasn't even expecting the second award, I was just surprised we got it," he said.

Arroyo also disclosed that, aside from the Bank of Saipan itself, multiple other bank employees applied for BOOST grants and have since been awarded.

At the committee meeting, Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan), who is a member of one of the committees looking into the BOOST matter, raised concerns about a conflict of interest, asking Arroyo, who also administers the BOOST program, if he didn't think to run a conflict-of-interest inquiry by anyone.

"I thought we would rely on the members of the panel to decide whether a conflict of interest existed. I believe the panel would be the stop gap but I suppose, in hindsight, we never should have submitted the application," Arroyo said.

Arroyo added that he didn't believe a conflict of interest existed with BOS applying for a BOOST grant since he doesn't have the authority to decided who is awarded a grant.

"Because we weren't making the decision on who to award grants to, I thought we would be treated as a small business in the community. It would go through the panel, like everyone else, and they would make the decision on whether we were eligible and whether they would give us funds or not. Mostly my job was to make sure applications were complete, not necessarily reading through the applications. There is no written conflict of interest policy in place for BOOST," he said.

"My thinking is that because the panel knew that the application was coming from the Bank of Saipan, they would do the final vetting of the application to make sure that what we submitted was complete and correct," Arroyo added.

The joint meeting is being conducted by the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Castro, is the meeting's first witness, testified about the BOOST Program in the House chamber Friday and finished his testimony on Monday.

DHS' public charge final rule goes into effect on Dec. 23

On Dec. 23, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security's Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility final rule will go into effect. This final rule, which was previously announced, provides clarity and consistency for noncitizens on how DHS will administer the public charge ground of inadmissibility.

This final rule restores the historical understanding of a "public charge" that had been in place for decades before the previous administration began to consider supplemental public health benefits such as Medicaid and nutritional assistance as part of the public charge inadmissibility determination.

When making a public charge inadmissibility determination under this final rule, DHS will consider an applicant's "age; health; family status; assets, resources, and financial status; education and skills"; a sufficient Affidavit of Support Under Section 213A of the INA (when one is required); and prior or current receipt of: supplemental Security Income; cash assistance for income maintenance under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; State, Tribal, territorial, or local cash benefit programs for income maintenance (often called "General Assistance"); or long-term institutionalization at government expense.

DHS will not consider receipt of noncash benefits (for example, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, public housing, school lunch programs, etc.) other than long-term institutionalization at government expense.

"We published a Policy Manual update providing guidance to [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] officers on how to implement this regulation fairly and consistently and informing the public about how the rule will be implemented," a DHS news release yesterday said.

USCIS will begin applying the policy guidance on Dec. 23, 2022, to applications filed (or electronically submitted, if applicable) on or after that date.

"We have published the [Dec. 23, 2022] edition of Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, for applicants to prepare their applications in advance of Dec. 23, 2022. Do not file the [Dec. 23, 2022] edition of Form I-485 before Dec. 23, 2022. We will reject any Form I-485 with the edition date of [Dec. 23, 2022] filed before Dec. 23, 2022," the DHS news release stated.

What to know about sending us your form

■ We will reject the July 15, 2022, edition of Form I-485 if it is postmarked on or after Dec. 23, 2022.

■ We will reject the Dec. 23, 2022, edition of Form I-485 if it is postmarked on or before Dec. 22, 2022.

Additional information, including FAQs and an infographic, are available on the Public Charge Resources page. ***(DHS)***

TINIAN DELEGATION
Maj. Gen. Esther Aguigui and Command Sgt. Maj. Celso Leonen host the CNMI delegation's visit to the Guam National Guard Barrigada Readiness Complex last Dec. 19. The CNMI delegation included Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian). "We wanted to thank Mayor Aldan for visiting us and sharing ideas on how our islands can work together, because we really are One Marianas," Aguigui said. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V.Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING

USA FANTER CORPORATION LIMITED
USA FANTER KANNAT TABLA
QUARRY & BATCHING PLANT FACILITY

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. CRM-MS2022-0003 (formerly SMS-2012-X-061-A1) – The USA Fanter Corporation Limited is proposing to construct a cement batching plant, hollow block manufacturing facility, and to extend the use and operation of its quarry operation on public lands identified as Lot Nos. 040 H 12 and 040 H 13 in Kannat Tabla, Saipan. USA Fanter Corporation, Ltd., has leased the two properties from the Department of Public Lands (DPL) under a Temporary Lease Agreement, No. 22-001S for five (5) years.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

To maintain the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j *(Meeting ID: 6706648315)*. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the USA Fanter Kannat Table Quarry Operations and Batching Plant Facility Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-23-004

A&E Design Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System Preliminary Engineering Report

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) for a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System on Tinian and Rota. The services shall include preparation of the PER as per USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-2.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email to marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office via email after registration.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RAESP-23-004, A&E Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System – Preliminary Engineering Report",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m., (ChST) on January 18, 2023. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 28, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater, Engineer – via email, nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org; Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Chief Engineer at email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

UOG to receive $600K for scholarships; strengthen Taiwan ties

The University of Guam will receive $600,000 over three years primarily toward scholarships from the nonprofit J. Yang and Family Foundation through the newly established Asia Pacific Studies Center project at UOG.

The project aims to further strengthen the educational ties between Taiwan and the University of Guam, in part, via scholarships for graduate and undergraduate students at UOG and study-abroad opportunities in Taiwan and in Guam, and faculty visits.

The donation will arrive in three, $200,000 annual releases every January.

The project became official on Dec. 8, 2002, with the signing of the memorandum of understanding between UOG and the J. Yang and Family Foundation, based in Torrance, California.

"I'm so happy to have this opportunity to support the University of Guam," said Jackson Yang, chairman of the foundation and national policy adviser to the president of Taiwan, adding the project will send students from Taiwan to study in Guam and for UOG students to study in Taiwan.

The foundation has also made donations to California universities and the outcome has been good, he said, as he participated in the signing via video link.

"We hope the same situation will happen this time between Guam and Taiwan," he added.

Yang is also the founder and CEO of Seville Classics, a global leading innovator and manufacturer in the housewares and storage industry for over 40 years and chairman of First General Bank, which serves Southern California.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

University of Guam Senior vice president and provost Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez and director general Paul Chen of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Guam are photographed Dec. 8 at the TECO Guam office after the signing of the memorandum of understanding between UOG and the J. Yang and Family Foundation of California. The foundation's chairman, Jackson Yang, signed virtually.

Born in Changhua, Taiwan, Jackson Yang immigrated to the United States in his early 40s and started his business from scratch. Today, he is the CEO of a California-headquartered business that generates $200 million in annual revenue with additional sales offices in Hong Kong, China, and Vancouver, Canada.

'Efforts to internationalize education experiences'

Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, senior vice president and provost at UOG, was central to laying the groundwork for the project with a visit to California this past summer along with UOG senior and associate liaison of the Asia-Pacific Universities Consortium, Dr. Kuan Chen and Dr. Jeng-Hung Liu.

"We are thrilled and grateful for this unprecedented gift to the University of Guam from the J. Yang and Family Foundation for their generous donation. The agreement will propel our efforts to internationalize education experiences through the Asia Pacific Studies Center project, which will increase bilateral exchange opportunities for faculty and students from UOG and partnered universities in Taiwan," said Enriquez.

The Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office Guam helped UOG connect with Jackson Yang and his family's foundation and hosted the signing of the MOU.

Also present at the signing from California were Rebecca Lan, director of the Education Division of TECO in Los Angeles and Yang's assistant, Shirley Chen. Others who attended the signing virtually or in person were TECO Guam Political Division officer Tary Huang; Katrina Perez, director of the UOG Endowment Foundation; UOG president Thomas W. Krise; as well as UOG representatives Chen, Liu, University Libraries dean Monique Storie and Micronesian Area Research Center professor Wei Yi Ma. ***(UOG)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Jan. 4, 2023 | 3:00 PM
Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 01/04/2023 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 11/29/2022 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2022-0008 – Top Shelf, LLC dba The Hook Up is proposing to occupy 2-units within the existing Xerox Building, measuring 56" (L) x 28' (W) for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 004 D 79 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

2. Conditional Use Application #2022-0009 – New Plus Trading Corp. is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 100' (L) x 50'(W) for its "Warehousing and General Wholesaling" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 32-6 in the village of San Vicente. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

3. Conditional Use Application #2022-0010 – Song Zhu Corporation is proposing to construct a 2-storey structure measuring 100' (L) x 40'(W) for its "Warehousing and General Wholesaling" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 380 New-6-2 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

4. Conditional Use Application #2022-0011 – Shining Star Hotel is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 110'.8" (L) x 62' (W) x 47' (H) for its "Hotel" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 013 H 38 in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

5. Conditional Use Application #2022-0012 – 99 Cents Supermart, Inc. is proposing to utilize a portion of the current 99 Cents Supermart measuring 20' (L) x 20' (W) for its "Manufacturing and Processing" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 004 D 110, 111, 102, and 103 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

6. Conditional Use Application #2022-0013 – Wang's Corp. is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 46'.6" (L) x 20' (W) for its "Guest House" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 001 D 24 B and 001 D 23 A in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

C. New Business
1. Election of Officers
2. Political Sign Board Standards

D. Miscellaneous
1. Administrator's Updates
2. Permit & Enforcement Report
3. Next meeting

F. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/6853007492
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwhite@saipan.com

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PUSHADEVI M. HEMLANI, Plaintiff,
-v-
JAMES D. CABRERA, FEIAN CHEN, and WENJUE YIN, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0198-CV

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

/s/
Clerk of Court
Dated, this 31st day of August, 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW23-ITB NO.: 42300016

SUBMISSION DATE: January 17, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of the Secretary of Finance Office Building Number 1302, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after December 14, 2022 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **January 03, 2023**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center **Office**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 10, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT SERVICES

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237

info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

The Marianas

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, December 23, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **MVA Conference Room**.

MEETING AGENDA

1) Preliminary Matters
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  - i. November 17, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
  - ii. December 6, 2022 Special Board Meeting

2) Public Comments

3) Committee Reports
- a. Finance Committee
  - i. Fund Status
  - ii. Reprogramming of Funds
- b. Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)
  - i. Japan
  - ii. Korea

4) Old Business
- a. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
- b. CDBG-DR Update
- c. Global Branding

5) New Business
- a. China Market Update – Presented by Ms. Jennifer Tan
- b. RFP Office Space
- c. Request to Renewal Membership – PATA International
- d. 500 Sails Funding Proposal
- e. Funding Request
  - i. Tinian Hot Pepper Festival 2023
  - ii. Saipan Marathon 2023
  - iii. Taste of The Marianas 2023

6) Executive Session

7) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- a. Next Regular Board Meeting
- b. Christmas in The Marianas Schedule
- c. Others

8) Adjournment

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Christmas in the Marianas brings holiday cheer to schools

It was a joyous occasion last Saturday at Marianas Visitors Authority's 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration in Garapan, Saipan, with all participating schools walking away with monetary gifts and the community being treated to an illuminated Christmas Parade and a special performance by the visiting Guam Army National Guard 721st Rock Band.

The Christmas Parade kicked off at 6pm right after sunset at American Memorial Park and traveled south along Beach Road to the Christmas in the Marianas grounds at Garapan Fishing Base. The parade featured decorated trailers and cars and costumed walking groups. Winning first place and $1,000 for the parade float competition was Tanapag Middle School.

Kagman Elementary School joins the Christmas Parade at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 17, 2022, in Garapan, Saipan. MVA

MVA

The Guam Army National Guard 721st Rock Band performs at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 17, 2022, in Garapan, Saipan.

Topping the other school contests were Saipan International School for elementary school caroling ($700), Adm. Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School for middle school caroling ($700), Mt. Carmel School for high school skit ($700), William S. Reyes Elementary for Christmas Tree decorating ($2,500), and Marianas High School for the Mini Christmas Village decorating contest ($600).

PDM Promoters helped solicit and present the awards, which were composed of educational tax credit donations from local businesses. The annual signature event was also organized in cooperation with CNMI Public School System, private schools, and Pacific Development Inc.

"Saturday was another great night at Christmas in the Marianas, and we thank all the schools and our other sponsors and supporters," said MVA acting managing director Martin Duenas. "Christmas in the Marianas is usually held every Saturday in December, but this year we'll be take a hiatus on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and return for one final night on Jan. 7, 2023, for our visitors and residents to enjoy. Merry Christmas to all!"

Christmas in the Marianas is held from 5pm to 9pm with live entertainment, food and drink sales, a Mini Christmas Village, and a Christmas Tree and illumination display.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or 664-3200/1 or visit www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

William S. Reyes Elementary School joins the Christmas Parade at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 17, 2022, in Garapan, Saipan. MVA

MVA

Green Meadow School joins the Christmas Parade at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 17, 2022, in Garapan, Saipan.

William S. Reyes Elementary School is awarded first place in the Christmas tree Decorating Contest of the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 17, 2022, in Garapan, Saipan. MVA

Saipan International School is awarded second place for the high school caroling competition at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 17, 2022, in Garapan, Saipan. MVA

MVA

Kinpachi Restaurant serves takoyaki and other Japanese dishes at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 17, 2022, in Garapan, Saipan.

Agape Christian School is awarded third place and $300 for middle school caroling competition the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 17, 2022, in Garapan, Saipan. MVA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 253
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

With his trading card scam, Trump goes from national threat to national joke

After all that Donald Trump has put America through, he owed the country a good laugh. Last week, he delivered spectacularly, if unintentionally. Trump teased a "major announcement" that turned out to be a return to his grifter roots. This time he was hawking not worthless college degrees or failing casinos but digital images of himself in various heroic poses (cowboy, astronaut, superhero).

The sound of dropping jaws was palpable throughout MAGA world. If Trump's earlier suggestion of suspending the Constitution to return him to the presidency didn't convince his remaining supporters that this man belongs nowhere near power, there are promising indications that perhaps this latest evidence of untethered clownishness finally will.

The twice-impeached former president is running for that office again, though evidence of an actual campaign remains elusive. So speculation was rampant when Trump posted on his Truth Social site Wednesday: "AMERICA NEEDS A SUPERHERO! I will be making a MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT tomorrow."

"Will he announce a third party run? House Speaker bid? His running mate?" tweeted one breathless conservative. Others speculated he would announce he is accepting fellow billionaire narcissist Elon Musk's invitation to return to Twitter.

What no one predicted was that Trump meant the "superhero" reference literally. What he unveiled Thursday—in a bizarre video announcement in which he declared himself a better president than Lincoln or Washington—was a line of digital "trading cards" depicting Trump in various heroic, muscular settings. Including one with lasers coming out of his eyes.

"Collect all of your favorite Trump Digital Trading Cards, very much like a baseball card, but hopefully much more exciting," Trump wrote in an accompanying post. "Only $99 each! Would make a great Christmas gift. Don't Wait. They will be gone, I believe, very quickly!"

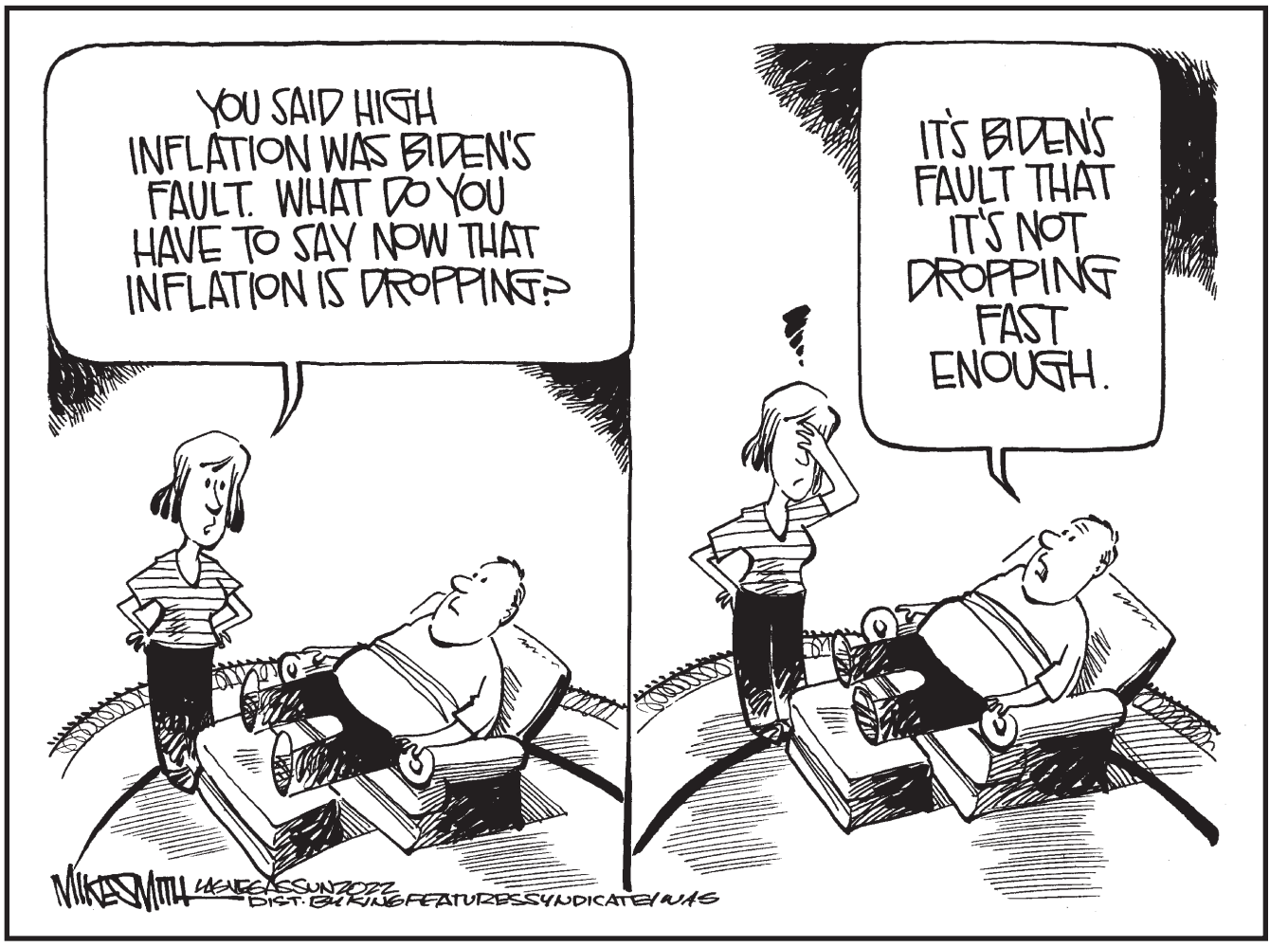
In yet another confirmation of the old adage that there's a sucker born every minute, the 45,000 nonfungible tokens (NFTs) of the images were in fact gone by Friday morning, according to an independent NFT market monitor.

Maybe those buyers thought they were helping Trump's supposed presidential campaign? If so, sorry, chumps. Trump is just pocketing the money.

Mockery of his cheap stunt spread like wildfire across the internet, with even conservative voices getting in on the act. "Don't give any money to con artist Trump," blared an editorial headline in the formerly Trumpy New York Post. "Thank God, the digital trading cards are here. It was indeed a MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT," snarked conservative commentator Ben Shapiro.

Even die-hard Trump ally Steve Bannon declared glumly,

See TRUMP on Next Page


YOU SAID HIGH INFLATION WAS BIDEN'S FAULT. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY NOW THAT INFLATION IS DROPPING?
IT'S BIDEN'S FAULT THAT IT'S NOT DROPPING FAST ENOUGH.
MIKE SMITH 11/16/22
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

As we enter the peak of the respiratory virus season, parents should be prudent

By CORY FRANKLIN and MARY HALL
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Over thousands of years, viruses and humans have evolved together. The spread of viruses is a basic feature of nature, and it is an immutable fact that controlling nature is difficult, but not always impossible. In this respect, notable human accomplishments include agriculture, sanitation, hydroelectric power, vaccines and aviation. Those, however, are exceptions. More often, attempts to control nature are either extremely limited in success or result in outright failure. Even when successful, the process is long and arduous and often results in tragic missteps. Before aviation became routine with the control of gravity, thousands of passengers and pilots died in plane crashes.

More successful than our attempts at controlling nature has been our ability to accommodate and coexist with it. When it comes to respiratory viruses, children are especially adept at this. Their immune systems are designed to respond immediately and efficiently to viruses they confront for the first time. This is probably why, in the case of COVID-19, they were less likely to get sick than adults, for whom the virus was also a new encounter.

For various reasons, there was very little spread of respiratory viruses for the first two years of the pandemic. Those viruses are spreading now, and children have some catching up to do in their response to the viruses in their environment owing to unusually low viral exposure in 2020 and 2021. Fortunately, kids are well adapted to manage this catch-up process, and the annoyance of them suffering through a seemingly interminable series of viruses actually means we are well on our way through this process.

What can parents do in the face of the likelihood their children will get sick this winter? The primary goal is to help children feel better when they get colds or respiratory infections. This includes providing physical and emotional comfort and knowing the warning signs of when something more serious can be developing. This is admittedly not always easy because when kids are sick, they are uncomfortable. Parents, sensing that discomfort, will understandably be distressed.

Take heart, this is not all bad: From the standpoint of the child's immune system, a viral infection is a balancing act. It is frightening to have a virus overwhelm the immune system, but this is a rare occurrence. At the same time, the child's body is learning how to fight that virus more effectively, preparing for the next round.

Another parental responsibility is teaching kids not to spread viruses. This means using good manners such as washing hands and coughing into elbows. Have children stay home from school when they are sick. But remember that the spread of viruses is inevitable, especially with children. Kids will always catch colds from other kids, and the best parents can do is cut down on the frequency of transmission. By allowing youngsters to participate in normal activities, parents are actually helping kids—even with the awareness the children will sometimes be exposed—because those illnesses make the body stronger and healthier. Keep in mind that once the child has recovered, his or her body will have learned something new about that virus and as a result fortified its defenses.

Parents can also be proactive by helping kids keep their bodies healthy, so they are well prepared if and when they do get a viral illness. This includes reminding children to eat healthy foods and get exercise and enough sleep. For their mental health, minimize screen time. No good will come from long hours with cellphones, iPads, computers or the television.

In winter 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, responses of the government and medical community were designed to protect older and sicker people, who were the primary victims of COVID-19. Inadvertently, these measures did much to hurt children physically, mentally, socially and developmentally. The virus was extremely contagious, and there were many things we didn't know about COVID-19, including the fact that children were at much lower risk of severe illness. Much of the harm was done in an attempt to control nature and stop COVID-19 completely, which in this case turned out to be a fool's errand as mainland China is now discovering to its chagrin.

Authorities may have overstepped in trying to protect our children from harm over the past three years, but parents can right the situation going forward. Be prudent. Protect your children from the slings and arrows of this season's respiratory viruses—but don't overprotect them. Their immune systems are resilient, and in virtually every case, the children will recover and be stronger for it. Pay as much attention to their mental and emotional health as you do to their physical well-being—in fact, maybe more, because those aspects are fragile and parents can do much to be a positive influence.

Love is as important as any medication—that is one way you can control nature.

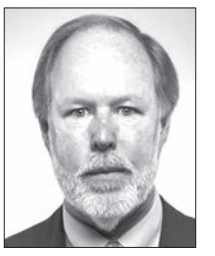
Dr. Cory Franklin is a retired intensive care physician. Dr. Mary Hall is a pediatrician in private practice in Skokie, Illinois.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Democracy around the world is looking a little healthier, at least next to the alternative

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*



More than a decade ago, scholars began pointing to a troubling global trend: a "democratic recession." Dozens of countries were drifting away from democracy toward authoritarianism.

The list of backsliders has spanned the globe from India and South Africa to Hungary, Poland, Mexico—even, in recent years, the United States.

Freedom House, a nonprofit organization that rates countries on electoral practices, civil liberties and other measures, has reported 16 consecutive years of the world becoming less democratic.

Meanwhile, China's authoritarian regime has been touting its one-party system as more efficient and dynamic than the tired old democracies.

But look again. The autocrats are having a bad year.

In China, Xi Jinping's draconian policy of "zero-COVID" has slowed economic growth and spurred angry protests.

Russia's Vladimir Putin has launched a disastrous war against Ukraine, prompting almost a million young Russians to flee their country to avoid conscription.

In Iran, protests by young women against laws requiring headscarves have mushroomed into a broader rebellion demanding an end to the authoritarian Islamic regime.

Meanwhile, at least some of the world's democracies appear to have found a second wind. Extreme right-wing parties have lost in France and Germany, although they won in Italy and Sweden. Brazil's autocratic President Jair Bolsonaro lost his job in a well-conducted national election; he challenged the result in court and lost again. And U.S. voters delivered an unexpectedly clear message in last month's midterm elections, rejecting candidates who embraced the election denialism of former President Donald Trump.

So is the democratic recession ending?

Unfortunately, no. The scholar who originated the phrase, Larry Diamond of Stanford, says it's too early to break out the champagne.

"I don't see the current protests in Iran, China or Russia leading to a democratic breakthrough," he told me. "I think it is very much a jump ball globally right now—and I see a lot of warning signs that people aren't paying attention to."

Michael Abramowitz, president of Freedom House, agreed.

"Democracy has not come roaring back," he said. "I think we're going to turn the corner at some point, but it hasn't happened yet."

It's useful to distinguish between two issues here. One is the crisis of the authoritarian regimes; the other is the health of the world's democracies.

In China, Russia and Iran, Diamond said, we're seeing a process of "authoritarian regime decay."

"The regimes have been performing badly in meeting people's expectations," he said. "As a result, each is facing a legitimacy crisis—a sharp decline in the belief that the regime has the right to govern."

That doesn't mean those governments are likely to fall: All have decades of experience at repressing dissidents, now reinforced by increasingly sophisticated surveillance technology.

In recent weeks, all three regimes have attempted to placate unhappy citizens. China has ended "zero-COVID." Putin has told Russians there will be no more military call-ups soon. And a top Iranian official said the country's widely hated morality police was being disbanded, although it wasn't clear whether the announcement had any real effect.

But none of them look like attractive models for others to follow.

Meanwhile, democracy is still struggling.

"Mexico and India are in the grip of authoritarian demagogues," Diamond wrote. "Nigeria faces the prospect of partial state collapse. South Africa, on which the hopes of democracy in Africa so heavily depend, is not doing well."

That's why, to scholars of democracy, some of the best news of the year came from our own midterm election.

"That was a test of whether anti-democratic candidates—anti-democratic with a small 'd'; I'm not being partisan—would be put in a position to run future elections," Abramowitz said.

"They lost pretty decisively, and that's significant," he added. "It suggested that civil society in the United States has revitalized itself."

In an Associated Press survey, 44% of U.S. voters polled named the future of democracy as one of their top concerns on Election Day, outranked only by inflation and the economy.

A post-election survey by Bright Line Watch, a nonpartisan research group, found a similar number who said that "protecting democracy" would be the most important issue when they choose a presidential candidate in 2024.

"We're not out of the woods yet by any means," Abramowitz said. "But I'm a little more hopeful than a year ago."

So we can take some satisfaction in the misfortunes of the world's worst dictators. And we can take heart at the evidence, however tentative, that democracy can still be a self-correcting system.

But these battles are a long way from over. Making democracy work is a struggle that remains to be won.

How rising hospital costs increase health care inequities for marginalized communities

By JULIANNE MALVEAUX
Los Angeles Times

Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State Los Angeles.

Across the state, California's hospitals are facing serious challenges—particularly those institutions serving our urban, low-income and historically marginalized communities. Metropolitan anchor hospitals, as they have come to be known, play a vital role in advancing health equity and are disproportionately affected by the problems facing the entire health care system.

Health care costs, which were already increasing before the COVID-19 pandemic, are now accelerating at an even faster pace. Inflation, supply chain issues and rising labor costs are making the situation even more dire. Today's economic headwinds have tremendous implications for the metropolitan anchor hospitals and their ability to improve patient access to care, reduce health care disparities and advance equity in some of California's most economically challenged neighborhoods.

The trends here mirror what is happening nationally. In 2020, health care costs represented nearly 20% of the United States' gross domestic product, a sharp rise from 2019 and more than four times higher than in 1960. COVID-19 helped fuel the rapid acceleration of health care costs, pushing hospitals to the brink. For America's urban safety net hospitals, these increases have made it even harder to provide care in high-need communities.

Labor costs have been particularly challenging, driven by soaring demand for care throughout the pandemic while many hospitals and health systems were also experiencing critical shortages of physicians, nurses and other essential staff. To fill the void, many hospitals were forced to rely on staffing agencies. Hourly rates of contract staffing agencies increased by 213% from pre-pandemic levels in January 2019 to this year, according to a recent American Hospital Association report. This put even more financial strain on the metropolitan anchors, which often operate with far fewer resources than other hospitals, even those serving the same areas.

On average, a hospital spends approximately half of its budget on its workforce. So, when per-patient labor expenses rose by nearly 20% from 2019 to 2021, many hospitals—especially metropolitan anchors, which treat high numbers of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and provide high levels of uncompensated care—found themselves in a bind. Credit rating agency Fitch recently adjusted its outlook for the not-for-profit hospital sector, forecasting that "labor expenses may be reset at a permanently higher level for the rest of 2022 and likely well beyond."

With researchers predicting a shortage of up to 3.2 million health care workers by 2026, the crisis is expected to get much worse. By the end of this year, estimates suggest the U.S. may experience a shortage of as many as 1.1 million nurses, a problem that will only be compounded by many physicians and other health professionals also leaving the field.

Hospitals' financial instability is compounded by supply chain challenges, inflating the costs of drugs, supplies and medical devices. For example, data show that per-patient drug expenses increased by nearly 40%, and per-patient supply costs rose by approximately 20% in 2021. These trends are simply unsustainable.

These escalating health care costs can have dire consequences for health equity. Metropolitan anchor hospitals typically have razor-thin or negative margins, which hinders their ability to weather financial storms. I fear these hospitals will be forced to make tough decisions about their ability to provide the same level of high-quality care that every individual deserves. If these hospitals are not given federal government support to stay afloat, they will find it even more difficult to attract and retain staff, modernize their facilities and continue offering programs that address the social factors that influence health.

Hospitals, especially established institutions in large urban or metropolitan areas, are vital to reducing health disparities. Here in Los Angeles, hospitals such as Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital and East Los Angeles Doctors Hospital are pillars of marginalized communities. Throughout California and the country, many anchor hospitals operate primary care and specialty clinics in high-need neighborhoods, participate in public-private partnerships to provide affordable housing to residents, manage community gardens and "food pharmacies," and coordinate anti-violence programs. These initiatives are part of an overall strategy to improve health outcomes and enhance the quality of life for patients in need.

I'm still optimistic that the greater focus on improving outcomes for patients in marginalized communities will go a long way toward ending the shameful health disparities that exist. Stakeholders throughout the health care sector are working to develop a legislative proposal that would establish a federal designation distinguishing metropolitan anchor hospitals, helping to ensure they have adequate resources to continue providing high quality care. It would be similar to the way critical access hospitals are designated in rural areas.

We need Congress to recognize the unique services delivered by, populations served by and financial barriers faced by metropolitan anchors, and to create this type of designation to help communities that depend on these institutions.

Governments—federal, state and local—must provide the resources to ensure that these vital hospitals are not struggling to survive, but instead thriving and continuing the mission of health equity.

TRUMP

From Page 8

"I can't do this anymore."

Trump has repeatedly shown himself to be an existential threat to democracy. But this episode conclusively, finally, reduces him to a national joke. Anyone who ever supported him should be embarrassed. Anyone who still supports him should see a shrink. And America should move on from this idiotic shyster.

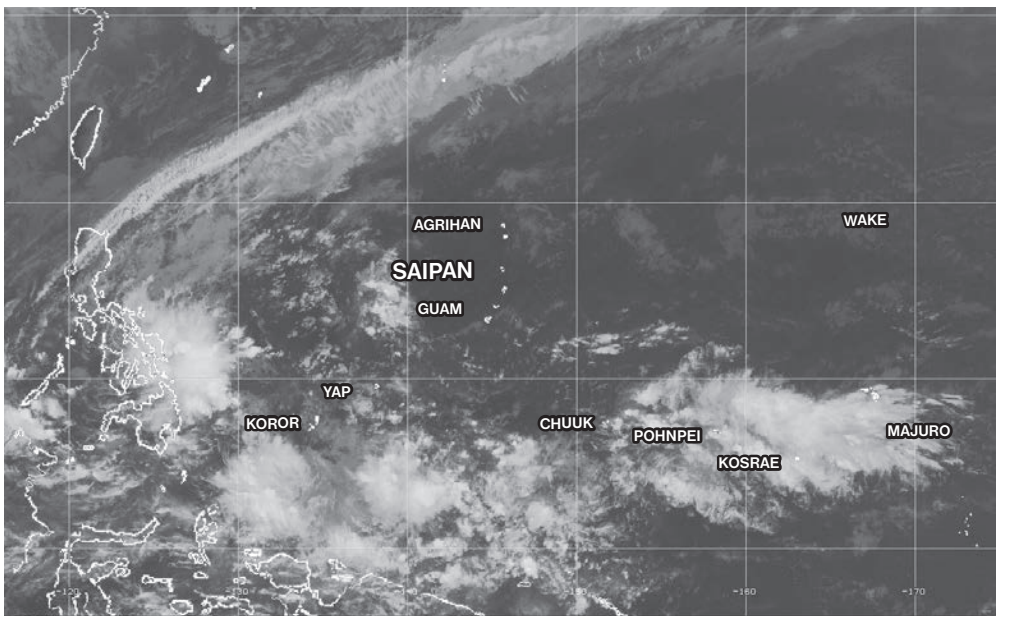
©2022 St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Scattered showers. Partly sunny	Showers likely. Cloudy	Showers likely. Cloudy	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
83º / 78º	83º / 78º	83º / 78º	83º / 78º	82º / 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:32 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trade winds continue to prevail in the Marianas. Doppler radar and satellite imagery this morning show only partly cloudy skies and isolated thunderstorms this morning. Ritidian and Ipan buoys were indicating seas were around 9 feet for most of the night, but have decreased about about a foot over the last couple of hours.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:28 AM	3:36 PM	-
Thursday	4:22 AM	4:17 PM	-
Friday	5:19 AM	5:03 PM	-
Saturday	6:21 AM	5:55 PM	-
Sunday	7:27 AM	6:53 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72° / 59°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 21°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 73°
London	Sunny	43° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 71°
New York	Showers	53° / 36°
Osaka	Sunny	52° / 39°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	45° / 32°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	54° / 34°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:43 AM	High Tide	1.56
11:39 AM	Low Tide	0.97
5:04 PM	High Tide	1.80
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

United to buy up to 200 new Boeing 787 Dreamliners

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
United Airlines expects to take delivery of 100 Boeing 787 Dreamliners between 2024 and 2032.

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced the largest widebody order by a U.S. carrier in commercial aviation history: 100 Boeing 787 Dreamliners with options to purchase 100 more. This historic purchase is the next chapter in the ambitious United Next plan and will bolster the airline's leadership role in global travel for years to come.

United expects to take delivery of the new widebody planes between 2024 and 2032 and can choose among the 787-8, 9 or 10 models, providing flexibility to support a wide range of routes.

United also exercised options to purchase 44 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft for delivery between 2024 and 2026—consistent with the United Next 2026 capacity plan—and ordered 56 more MAX aircraft for delivery between 2027 and 2028.

The airline now expects to take delivery of about 700 new narrow and widebody aircraft by the end of 2032, including an average of more than two every week in 2023 and more than three every week in 2024.

Additionally, United continues its unprecedented effort to upgrade the interiors of its existing fleet. More than 90% of the carrier's international widebodies now feature the United Polaris business class seat, as well as United Premium Plus seating—upgrades for the remaining aircraft will be completed by the summer of 2023. United also will retrofit 100% of its mainline, narrowbody planes with its signature interior—about 100 aircraft are scheduled to be completed in 2023 with the remaining expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Approximately 100 planes of the new widebody order are expected to replace older Boeing 767 and Boeing 777 aircraft, with all 767 aircraft removed from the United fleet by 2030, resulting in up to an expected 25% decrease in carbon emissions per seat for the new planes compared to the older planes they are expected to replace.

"United emerged from the pandemic as the world's leading global airline and the flag carrier of the United States," said United CEO Scott Kirby. "This order further solidifies our lead and creates new opportunities for our customers, employees and shareholders by accelerating our plan to connect more people to more places around the globe and deliver the best experience in the sky."

"With this investment in its future fleet, the 737 MAX and 787 will help United accelerate its fleet modernization and global growth strategy," said Stan Deal, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "The Boeing team is honored by United's trust in our family of airplanes to connect people and transport cargo around the world for decades to come."

Driving bottom line value

The firm order for 787 aircraft addresses United's current widebody aircraft replacement needs through the next decade —their greatly improved maintenance and fuel burn economics will further United's efforts to improve its overall cost profile. In partnership with Boeing, this order also helps United maintain flexibility with the timing of widebody aircraft retirements.

At the same time, the 787 options allow United to continue to grow its global network and would help maintain the airline's industry-leading margins in international flying among U.S. carriers.

"This order solves for our current widebody replacement needs in a more fuel-efficient and cost-efficient way, while also giving our customers a best-in-class experience," said Gerry Laderman, United's EVP and Chief Financial Officer. "And if the future of long-haul flying is as bright as we think it will be, United is able to capitalize on those opportunities by exercising these new widebody options - I look forward to the incremental margin and earnings these aircraft will generate."

The exercised options for MAX aircraft are consistent with the 2026 capacity and two margin targets associated with the United Next plan. United also has started to build the order book for 2027 and beyond with the firm order for 56 additional MAX aircraft. ***(PR)***

FTX founder agrees to extradition to US, attorney says

Sam Bankman-Fried may be ready to come to the U.S. to face criminal charges related to the collapse of cryptocurrency exchange FTX following a chaotic court appearance in the Bahamas.

A lawyer for Bankman-Fried was quoted as saying Monday the disgraced FTX founder has agreed to be extradited to the United States. A court hearing was stopped earlier in the day when his attorneys said it was premature for him to stand before the court.

Jerone Roberts, a local defense attorney for Bankman-Fried, told The New York Times that lawyers will prepare the necessary documents for extradition. "Mr. Bankman-Fried wishes to put the customers right, and that is what has driven his decision," the Times quoted Roberts telling reporters.

It was not immediately clear when extradition could occur.

The court appearance came just a week after Bankman-Fried's lawyers had initially said that they planned to fight extradition. An extradition hearing had been scheduled for Feb. 8. The reversal could speed up the timetable for him to be sent to the U.S.

Bahamian authorities arrested Bankman-Fried last Monday at the request of the U.S. government. U.S. prosecutors allege he played a central role in the rapid collapse of FTX and hid its problems from the public and investors. The Securities and Exchange Commission said Bankman-Fried illegally used investors' money to buy real estate on behalf of himself and his family. The 30-year-old could potentially spend the rest of his life in jail.

Bankman-Fried

Bankman-Fried arrived at the courthouse in a black van marked Corrections, which was escorted by a SWAT vehicle and a police vehicle. Police quickly whisked him into an entrance at the back of the courthouse.

A handful of people who said they were either crypto enthusiasts or FTX customers came to the courthouse to witness the proceedings.

"We want him to feel the weight of what he's done," said Ben Armstrong, the founder of the BitBoy Crypto website. Armstrong said he'd come to the courthouse with a dozen people, some of whom had lost their money with FTX.

If he is brought to New York, Bankman-Fried will likely be held, at least temporarily, in a federal detention center in Brooklyn. Other famous prisoners at the Metropolitan Detention Center in recent years have included the sexually-abusive singer R. Kelly, the pharmaceutical company executive Martin Shkrelli and the socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, who was convicted of helping the millionaire Jeffrey Epstein sexually abuse children.

During her time at the MDC, which houses around 1,600 prisoners, Maxwell's lawyers repeatedly complained to a judge that it was unsanitary, plagued by cockroaches and rodents. In recent years, three guards there have been convicted of sexually abusing inmates. In 2019, a power failure left inmates shivering for a week in the dead of winter.

Once he's back in the U.S., Bankman-Fried's attorney will be able to request that he be released on bail. A separate judge in the Bahamas denied Bankman-Fried's request for bail last week on the grounds he was a flight risk.

Bankman-Fried's downfall, from crypto evangelist to pariah, occurred with stunning speed. FTX filed for bankruptcy protection on Nov. 11 when it ran out of money after the cryptocurrency equivalent of a bank run.

Before the bankruptcy, Bankman-Fried was considered by many in Washington and on Wall Street as a wunderkind of digital currencies, someone who could help take them mainstream, in part by working with policymakers to bring more oversight and trust to the industry.

Bankman-Fried had been worth tens of billions of dollars — at least on paper — and was able to attract celebrities like Tom Brady or former politicians like Tony Blair and Bill Clinton to his conferences at luxury resorts in the Bahamas. One prominent Silicon Valley firm, Sequoia Capital, invested hundreds of millions of dollars in FTX.

The new CEO of FTX, John Ray III, told a congressional committee on Tuesday that there was nothing sophisticated about what Bankman-Fried was up to.

"This is just old fashion embezzlement, taking money from others and using it for your own purposes," he said. ***(AP)***

Trump's tax returns to be discussed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Democratic-controlled House Ways and Means Committee is expected to vote Tuesday on whether to publicly release years of Donald Trump 's tax returns, which the former president has long tried to shield.

Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., has kept a close hold on the panel's actions, including whether the panel will meet in a public or private session. And if lawmakers move forward with plans to release the returns, it's unclear how quickly that would happen.

But after a yearslong battle that ultimately resulted in the Supreme Court clearing the way last month for the Treasury Department to send the returns to Congress, Democrats are under pressure to act aggressively. The committee received six years of tax returns for Trump and some of his businesses. And with just two weeks left until Republicans formally take control of the House, Tuesday's meeting could be the last opportunity for Democrats to disclose whatever information they have gleaned.

Trump has long had a complicated relationship with his personal income taxes.

As a presidential candidate in 2016, he broke decades of precedent by refusing to release his tax forms to the public. He bragged during a presidential debate that year that he was "smart" because he paid no federal taxes and later claimed he wouldn't personally benefit from the 2017 tax cuts he signed into law that favored people with extreme wealth, asking Americans to simply take him at his word.

Tax records would have been a useful metric for judging his success in business. The image of a savvy businessman was key to a political brand honed during his years as a tabloid magnet and star of "The Apprentice" television show. They also could reveal any financial obligations — including foreign debts — that could influence how he governed.

But Americans were largely in the dark about Trump's relationship with the IRS until October 2018 and September 2020, when The New York Times published two separate series based on leaked tax records.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning 2018 articles showed how Trump received a modern equivalent of at least $413 million from his father's real estate holdings, with much of that money coming from what the Times called "tax dodges" in the 1990s. Trump sued the Times and his niece, Mary Trump, in 2021 for providing the records to the newspaper. In November, Mary Trump asked an appeals court to overturn a judge's decision to reject her claims that her uncle and two of his siblings defrauded her of millions of dollars in a 2001 family settlement.

Nation

Jan. 6 panel urges Trump prosecution with criminal referral

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Jan. 6 committee urged the Justice Department on Monday to bring criminal charges against Donald Trump for the violent 2021 Capitol insurrection, calling for accountability for the former president and "a time of reflection and reckoning."

After one of the most exhaustive and aggressive congressional probes in memory, the panel's seven Democrats and two Republicans are recommending criminal charges against Trump and associates who helped him launch a wide-ranging pressure campaign to try to overturn his 2020 election loss. The panel also released a lengthy summary of its final report, with findings that Trump engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to thwart the will of voters.

AP

A video of former President Donald Trump is shown on a screen, as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds its final meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Dec. 19, 2022.

At a final meeting Monday, the committee alleged violations of four criminal statutes by Trump, in both the run-up to the riot and during the insurrection itself, as it recommended the former president for prosecution to the Justice Department. Among the charges they recommend for prosecution is aiding an insurrection — an effort to hold him directly accountable for his supporters who stormed the Capitol that day.

The committee also voted to refer conservative lawyer John Eastman, who devised dubious legal maneuvers aimed at keeping Trump in power, for prosecution on two of the same statutes as Trump: conspiracy to defraud the United States and obstructing an official proceeding.

While a criminal referral is mostly symbolic, with the Justice Department ultimately deciding whether to prosecute Trump or others, it is a decisive end to a probe that had an almost singular focus from the start.

Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said Trump "broke the faith" that people have when they cast ballots in a democracy and that the criminal referrals could provide a "roadmap to justice" by using the committee's work.

"I believe nearly two years later, this is still a time of reflection and reckoning," Thompson said. "If we are to survive as a nation of laws and democracy, this can never happen again."

Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, the panel's Republican vice chairwoman, said in her opening remarks that every president in American history has defended the orderly transfer of power, "except one."

The committee also voted 9-0 to approve its final report, which will include findings, interview transcripts and legislative recommendations. The full report is expected to be released on Wednesday.

The report's 154-page summary, made public as the hearing ended, found that Trump engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the election. While the majority of the report's main findings are not new, it altogether represents one of the most damning portraits of an American president in recent history, laying out in great detail Trump's broad effort to overturn his own defeat and what the lawmakers say is his direct responsibility for the insurrection of his supporters.

The panel, which will dissolve on Jan. 3 with the new Republican-led House, has conducted more than 1,000 interviews, held 10 well-watched public hearings and collected more than a million documents since it launched in July 2021. As it has gathered the massive trove of evidence, the members have become emboldened in declaring that Trump, a Republican, is to blame for the violent attack on the Capitol by his supporters almost two years ago.

ACROSS THE NATION

Kari Lake will get to make case for election misconduct

PHOENIX (AP)—A judge on Monday dismissed part of a lawsuit filed by Kari Lake, the defeated Republican candidate for Arizona governor, but will allow her to call witnesses in an attempt to prove that she lost because of misconduct by election officials.

Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Peter Thompson dismissed eight of the 10 claims Lake raised in her lawsuit, which asks the judge to either declare her the winner or hold a revote in the county. Thompson took no position on the merits of Lake's two surviving claims, but he wrote that the law allows her to make her case.

Lake lost to Democrat Katie Hobbs by just over 17,000 votes out of 2.6 million cast. She will attempt to prove in a two-day hearing scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday that ballot printers malfunctioned in Maricopa County because of intentional interference by election officials and that ballots were improperly added at a county contractor that handles returned mail ballots.

Judge: Nevada can't yet consider death sentence commutations

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Nevada's pardons board will not be able to consider a last-minute request from outgoing Gov. Steve Sisolak to commute the sentences of all 57 of the state's death row prisoners, a judge ordered Monday evening.

The state Board of Pardons was set to vote on the request Tuesday morning, potentially delivering the second major victory in a week for advocates who have called for the abolition of capital punishment after Oregon Gov. Kate Brown used her executive clemency powers last Wednesday to commute the state's 17 death sentences.

Delivering his ruling from the bench, Carson City District Court Judge James Wilson Jr. said Nevada's pardons board, which includes the governor, has the authority to grant such commutations but failed to properly notify the families of victims before the meeting.

2nd Iowa man arrested in street race that killed 4-year-old

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A second man was arrested Monday in the death of a 4-year-old Iowa boy who was killed when a car racing on a city street crossed into oncoming traffic and crashed into two vehicles.

Des Moines police said in a news release that 47-year-old Keith Eric Jones, of Des Moines, was arrested on charges that included homicide related to reckless driving and drag racing. Robert Miller III, 35, of Urbandale, was arrested last week on similar charges.

Investigators found that Miller's sedan was going more than 100 mph (160 kph) along a four-lane road in Des Moines as it raced a BMW SUV that Jones was driving. The crash happened Dec. 13.

Miller's car crossed into oncoming lanes and struck a vehicle that was carrying the 4-year-old boy, also injuring an adult and an 8-year-old inside, according to investigators. The car then struck another vehicle, injuring an adult driver. Miller also was hurt.

Everyone who was injured is expected to recover.

Sgt. Paul Parizek, a police spokesperson, said investigators don't expect to make any additional arrests in the case.

High court temporarily blocks lifting of asylum restrictions

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court is temporarily blocking an order that would lift pandemic-era restrictions on asylum seekers but the brief order leaves open the prospect that the restrictions in place since the coronavirus pandemic began and have been used to turn back hundreds of thousands of prospective asylum seekers could still expire on Wednesday.

The court's decision comes as officials and aid groups along the border are trying to prepare for whatever changes may or may not come Wednesday.

In the city of El Paso, Mayor Oscar Leeser said they've received information from Border Patrol and shelters just across the border in Mexico indicating that up to 20,000 migrants might be waiting to cross into El Paso. The Red Cross has brought 10,000 cots to help with the increase, he said.

The order Monday by Chief Justice John Roberts — who handles emergency matters that come from federal courts in the nation's capital — comes as conservative states are pushing to keep the limits on asylum seekers that were put in place to stem the spread of COVID-19. The states appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court in a last-ditch effort before the restrictions are set to expire Wednesday, saying that lifting the limits on asylum seekers would cause irreparable harm to their states.

In the one-page order, Roberts granted a stay pending further order and asked the government to respond by 5 p.m. Tuesday. That is just hours before the restrictions are slated to expire on Wednesday.

The order by Roberts means the high-profile case that has drawn intense scrutiny at a time that the Republicans are set to take control of the House and make immigration a key issue will go down to the wire.

The immigration restrictions, often referred to as Title 42, were put in place under then-President Donald Trump in March 2020 and have prevented hundreds of thousands of migrants from seeking asylum in the U.S. in recent years. But as they're set to expire, thousands more migrants are packed in shelters on Mexico's border with the U.S.

Conservative-leaning states have argued that lifting Title 42 will lead to a surge of migrants into their states and take a toll on government services like health care or law enforcement. They also charge that the federal government has no plan to deal with an increase in migrants.

"This Court's review is warranted given the enormous national importance of this case. It is not reasonably contestable that the failure to grant a stay will cause an unprecedented calamity at the southern border," the states wrote in their request Monday.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

North Korea threatens strong military steps against Japan

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea threatened Tuesday to take "bold and decisive military steps" against Japan as it slammed Tokyo's adoption of a national security strategy as an attempt to turn the country into an aggressive military power.

The North's statement came four days after Japan announced a security strategy that reflects its determination to possess "counterstrike" capability and double its military spending to gain a more offensive footing against threats from China and North Korea.

The North's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Japan's push to acquire counterstrike capability has nothing to do with self-defense but is a clear attempt to acquire "pre-emptive attack capability meant to launch strikes on other countries' territories."

"Japan's foolish attempt to satiate its black-hearted greed -- the building up of its military invasion capability with the pretext of a legitimate exercise of self-defense rights -- cannot be justified and tolerated," an unidentified ministry spokesperson said in a statement carried by state media.

The statement accused the United States of supporting and promoting the Japanese military ambitions and undermining regional peace. It said such alleged U.S. moves are forcing North Korea to work hard to complete its plans to develop new strategic weapons to thwart enemy attempts to invade the North.

The statement said North Korea wants to make sure it can take "bold and decisive military steps" to protect its sovereignty and national interests in the wake of the complexity of regional security caused by the Japanese security strategy.

Virus death toll in China's capital shows further rise

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll in the latest COVID-19 surge in China's capital Beijing has risen incrementally, as feverish clinic patients and an increase in the funeral business point to a widening outbreak after an easing of strict virus containment regulations.

Unofficial reports suggest a widespread wave of new coronavirus cases, and relatives of victims and people who work in the funeral business said deaths tied to COVID-19 were increasing. Those people spoke on condition of not being identified for fear of retribution, official policy and the direction of the latest outbreak remain cloaked in uncertainty and confusion.

The National Health Commission on Tuesday said five newly recorded fatalities, all in Beijing, had taken the country's total death toll to 5,242 — relatively low by global standards but potentially set to increase substantially following moves by the government to step away from the "zero-COVID" policy of lockdowns, quarantines and compulsory testing that has staggered the economy and prompted rare anti-government protests.

With people testing and recuperating at home, China has said it is no longer possible to keep an accurate count of new case numbers, making it substantially more difficult to gauge the state of the current wave of infection and its direction. Some scientific models have estimated numbers will rise with an eventual death toll in the tens or hundreds of thousands.

China is trying to persuade reluctant seniors and others at risk to get vaccinated, apparently with only moderate success. Vaccination centers visited over recent days have been largely empty and there has been no major publicity drive in the entirely state-controlled media.

Kim's sister says doubts on spy satellite are 'dog barking'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday dismissed as "malicious disparaging" and "dog barking" the outside assessments that cast doubt on its developmental spy satellite and other military capabilities.

North Korea earlier claimed its rocket launches Sunday were tests of its first military reconnaissance satellite and on Monday its state media released two low-resolution photos of South Korean cities as viewed from space.

Some civilian experts in South Korea and elsewhere said the photos were too crude for a surveillance purpose and that the launches were likely a cover for North Korea's missile technology. South Korea's military maintained North Korea fired two medium-range ballistic missiles.

"Didn't they think their assessments are too inappropriate and careless as they commented on our satellite development capability and related preparations only with two photos that we've published in our newspaper" Kim Yo Jong, a senior Workers' Party official, said in a statement carried in state media.

She called South Korean experts' comments on the satellite photos "nonsensical," "malicious disparaging" and "dog barking."

Kim Yo Jong said the test satellite launched carried a commercial camera because there was no reason to use an expensive, high-resolution camera for a one-time test. She said North Korea used two outdated missiles as space launch vehicles — one for a test of tracking and receiving signals and the other for taking satellite photos and other tests.

Australian visit to China raises hopes on trade, detainees

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The first visit by an Australian foreign minister to China in four years is raising hopes that Australia will make progress on ending trade sanctions and freeing two Australian citizens detained in China.

But Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong cautioned on Tuesday before leaving that some of the thorny issues between the countries will take time to resolve.

Still, diplomacy experts welcomed the visit as a positive move following years of frosty relations.

Wong will meet with her counterpart, Wang Yi, in Beijing this week as Australia and China mark 50 years of diplomatic relations. The visit will include a new round of talks on foreign and strategic issues after the talks were suspended in 2018.

"There has been a lot of speculation in the last 24 hours or more about what will happen," Wong told reporters. "I will say this: the expectation should be that we will have a meeting, and that dialogue itself is essential to stabilizing the relationship. Many of the hard issues in the relationship will take time to resolve in our interests."

She said she didn't want to speculate on outcomes because it could have an impact on Australia's leverage in the talks.

"In relation to consular cases, to save you asking the question, obviously I will be raising consular cases, as I always do, just as I will continue to advocate for the trade impediments to be lifted," Wong said.

Australia has been pushing for the release of spy novelist Yang Hengjun, who China accused of espionage, and journalist Cheng Lei, who China accused of sharing state secrets.

World

Peru Congress to reconsider early election, unrest continues

AP

People walk on a street in Ayacucho, Peru, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022. Peru's caretaker president, Dina Boluarte, has tried to quell protests, emphasizing her own humble roots and support for protesters' demands that elections, scheduled for 2026, be pushed up to next year.

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peru's Congress is set Tuesday to consider holding early elections, beset by protesters who have blocked highways and clashed with security forces amid deadly nationwide unrest ever since the lawmakers ousted President Pedro Castillo.

It's the second time in days that the lawmakers — easily the most reviled of a widely discredited political elite — are taking up the proposal to push forward to next year the elections for president and Congress originally planned for 2026.

The measure has the backing of caretaker President Dina Boluarte, who took over from Castillo after the former rural school teacher tried to dissolve Congress on Dec. 7 — a move widely condemned by even his leftist supporters as a self-coup and act of political suicide. After the failed move, he was swiftly arrested.

The early elections proposal failed to muster enough votes last week after leftist lawmakers abstained, conditioning their support on the promise of a constitutional assembly to overhaul Peru's political charter — something that conservatives denounce as putting Peru's free market economic model at risk.

"Don't be blind," Boluarte said in comments over the weekend, slamming lawmakers for not moving more decisively to defuse mounting political tensions. "Look at the people and take action in line with what they are asking."

Castillo, a political novice who lived in a two-story adobe home in the Andean highlands before moving to the presidential palace, eked out a narrow victory in elections last year that rocked Peru's political establishment and laid bare the deep divisions between residents of the vibrant capital, Lima, and the long-neglected countryside.

US and Iran clash over Russia using Iran drones in Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States and its allies clashed with Iran and its ally Russia over Western claims that Tehran is supplying Moscow with drones that have been attacking Ukraine—and the U.S. accused the U.N. secretary-general of "yielding to Russian threats" and failing to launch an investigation.

At a contentious Security Council meeting Monday on the resolution endorsing the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six major powers, the United States and Iran also accused each other of responsibility for stalled negotiations on the Biden administration rejoining the agreement that former President Donald Trump pulled out of in 2018.

Iran's U.N. Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani insisted Iran's negotiating team exercised "maximum flexibility" in trying to reach agreement and even introduced an "innovative solution to the remaining issues to break the impasse." But he claimed the "unrealistic and rigid approach" of the United States led to the current stalled talks on the 2015 agreement, known as the JCPOA.

"Let's make it clear: pressure, intimidation and confrontation are not solutions and will get nowhere," Iravani said.

Iran is ready to resume talks and arrange a ministerial meeting "as soon as possible to declare the JCPOA restoration," Iravani said. "This is achievable if the U.S. demonstrates genuine political will … The U.S. now has the ball in its court."

Speaking before Iravani, U.S. Deputy Ambassador Robert Wood said "the door to negotiations remains open" for a mutual U.S.-Iranian return to full implementation of the JCPOA. But he said, "Iran's own actions and stances have been responsible for preventing that outcome."

In September, a deal that all other parties had agreed to was "within reach" and "even Iran prepared to say yes," Wood said, "until at the last minute, Iran made new demands that were extraneous to the JCPOA and that it knew could not be met."

He said Iran's conduct since September — notably its failure to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, and the expansion of its nuclear program "for no legitimate civilian purpose" — has reinforced U.S. skepticism "about Iran's willingness and capability of reaching a deal, and explains why there have been no active negotiations since then."

Good Housekeeping

Start the new year off right with this home checklist

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Ready for that feeling of "out with the old, in with the new"? We've all heard of New Year's resolutions. But what about fixes for your home? The back-burner items that you have been putting off for months can now become front-burner fixes in the new year.

Not sure where to begin? Here are 10 items you can put on your to-do list to get your new year off to a good start.

1. **Winterize**
From making sure seals around windows are tight to winterizing outdoor faucets, protecting your home from the elements can prevent potential issues.

2. **Refresh and swap**
Now is a good time to refresh and swap out old or worn items and replace with new and fresh ones.

3. **Check the filters in your HVAC unit**
So often, these filters get clogged simply because they are not checked and changed on a regular basis.

4. **Prune and mulch**
This time of year, it is best to cut back some of your landscape and mulch to help protect plantings for the warmer months.

5. **Donate**
Those extra items around the home causing clutter can easily be put to better use by donating them to your favorite charity.

6. **Do an energy assessment**
One of the most costly aspects of home ownership is heating and cooling. An energy assessment can help you discover potential deficiencies.

7. **Check for leaks**
Undetected, water leaks can cause severe damage. This time of year is a perfect one to make sure your home is properly sealed.

8. **Change batteries**
From the smoke detector to the carbon monoxide detector and flashlights, now is an ideal time to make sure everything is in working order.

9. **Plan for spring**
Now is a god time to plan those spring outdoor projects so that as soon as the weather warms up, you are ready to go.

10. **Bring the outdoors in**
Many of your treasured outdoor items, from furniture to outdoor equipment, may not be able to brave the elements, so it may be best to bring them indoors.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

99 Cents Supermart, Inc

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. 99 Cents Supermart, Inc. is proposing to utilize a portion of the current 99 Cents Supermart measuring 20' (L) x 20' (W) for its "Manufacturing and Processing" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 004 D 110, 111, 102, and 103 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Jan. 4, 2023
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, Jan. 3, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

New Plus Trading Corp.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. New Plus Trading Corp. is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 100' (L) x 50'(W) for its "Warehousing and General Wholesaling" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 32-6 in the village of San Vicente. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on

Date: Jan. 4, 2023
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, Jan. 3, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Shining Star Hotel

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Shining Star Hotel is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 110'.8" (L) x 62' (W) x 47' (H) for its "Hotel" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 013 H 38 in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Jan. 4, 2023
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, Jan. 3, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Song Zhu Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Song Zhu Corporation is proposing to construct a 2-storey structure measuring 100' (L) x 40'(W) for its "Warehousing and General Wholesaling" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 380 New-6-2 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Jan. 4, 2023
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, Jan. 3, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Top Shelf, LLC dba The Hook Up

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Top Shelf, LLC dba The Hook Up is proposing to occupy 2-units within the existing Xerox Building, measuring 56" (L) x 28' (W) for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 004 D 79 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Jan. 4, 2023
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, Jan. 3, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Wang's Corp.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Wang's Corp. is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 46'.6" (L) x 20' (W) for its "Guest House" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 001 D 24 B and 001 D 23 A in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Jan. 4, 2023
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, Jan. 3, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Chairman

Life & Style

Harvey Weinstein found guilty of rape in Los Angeles trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After a month-long trial and nine days of deliberations, Los Angeles jurors on Monday found Harvey Weinstein guilty of the rape and sexual assault of just one of the four accusers he was charged with abusing.

But the three guilty counts involving an Italian actor and model known at the trial as Jane Doe 1 still struck a major blow against the disgraced movie mogul, and provided another #MeToo moment of reckoning, five years after he became a magnet for the movement.

Weinstein, 70, who is two years into a 23-year sentence for a rape and sexual assault conviction in New York that is under appeal, could get up to 24 years in prison in California when he's sentenced.

He was found guilty of rape, forced oral copulation and another sexual misconduct count involving the woman who said he appeared uninvited at her hotel room door during a Los Angeles film festival in 2013.

Weinstein

"Harvey Weinstein forever destroyed a part of me that night in 2013 and I will never get that back. The criminal trial was brutal and Weinstein's lawyers put me through hell on the witness stand, but I knew I had to see this through to the end, and I did," the woman said in a statement after the verdict. "I hope Weinstein never sees the outside of a prison cell during his lifetime."

Weinstein was acquitted of a sexual battery allegation made by a massage therapist who treated him at a hotel in 2010.

The jury was unable to reach a decision on counts involving two accusers, notably rape and sexual assault charges involving Jennifer Siebel Newsom, a documentary filmmaker and the wife of California Gov. Gavin Newsom. A mistrial was declared on those counts.

Weinstein looked down at the table and appeared to put his face in his hands when the initial guilty counts were read. He looked forward as the rest of the verdict was read.

"Harvey is obviously disappointed in the verdict. He knows what happened and what never did," Weinstein's spokesperson Juda Engelmayer said in an email, saying there was a strong basis for an appeal on the convictions. "Harvey is grateful for the jury's work on the other counts, and he's determined to continue his legal challenges in ultimately proving his innocence."

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón applauded the accusers for their bravery to testify in the case, saying in a statement he was disappointed by the split verdict but hoped it brings "some measure of justice to the victims."

"Harvey Weinstein will never be able to rape another woman. He will spend the rest of his life behind bars where he belongs," Siebel Newsom said in a statement. "Throughout the trial, Weinstein's lawyers used sexism, misogyny, and bullying tactics to intimidate, demean, and ridicule us survivors. The trial was a stark reminder that we as a society have work to do."

Siebel Newsom's intense and dramatic testimony, in which she described being raped by Weinstein in a hotel room in 2005, brought the trial its most dramatic moments. But only eight of the 12 jurors agreed to find Weinstein guilty of those counts.

Jurors were deadlocked 10-2 on a sexual battery count involving Lauren Young, the only accuser who testified at both Weinstein trials. She said she was a model aspiring to be an actor and screenwriter who was meeting with Weinstein about a script in 2013 when he trapped her in a hotel bathroom, groped her and masturbated in front of her.

Lacking any forensic evidence or eyewitness accounts of years-old allegations, the case hinged heavily on the stories and credibility of the four women at the center of the charges.

The women's stories echoed the allegations of dozens of others who have emerged since Weinstein became a #MeToo lightning rod starting with stories in the New York Times in 2017. A movie about that reporting, "She Said," was released during the trial, and jurors were repeatedly warned not to see it.

It was the defense that made #MeToo an issue during the trial, however, emphasizing that none of the four women went to the authorities until after the movement made Weinstein a target.

Defense lawyers said two of the women—including the one he would be found guilty of raping—were entirely lying about their encounters with Weinstein. They said the other two had "100% consensual" sexual interactions that they later reframed.

Defense attorneys said during the trial that if Siebel Newsom hadn't reached her later prominence she would be "just another bimbo who slept with Harvey Weinstein to get ahead in Hollywood."

"Regret is not the same thing as rape," Weinstein attorney Alan Jackson said in his closing argument.

Johnny Depp, Amber Heard settle defamation appeals

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—Actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard have settled their defamation lawsuits following a high-profile trial earlier this year in which the former couple accused each other of physical and verbal abuse.

Heard

Heard announced the settlement Monday on social media. Both sides had filed appeals of various aspects of the jury's verdicts in June. The seven-person civil jury had awarded Depp $10 million in damages, but also awarded $2 million to Heard.

Depp's camp said the deal includes a $1 million payment from her to him to settle all financial claims.

Depp's lawyers said he will donate that money to charity.

"We are pleased to formally close the door on this painful chapter for Mr. Depp, who made clear throughout this process that his priority was about bringing the truth to light. The jury's unanimous decision and the resulting judgement in Mr. Depp's favor against Ms. Heard remain fully in place," Depp's lawyers, Benjamin Chew and Camille Vazquez, said.

Both sides argued to a jury in Fairfax County Circuit Court that the other had defamed them. Depp said he was libeled by Heard when she wrote a 2018 op-ed piece in The Washington Post describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse."

Depp

Depp's lawyers said he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name because, they argued, it clearly referenced abuse allegations Heard had made against Depp during divorce proceedings.

Heard, on the other hand, said she was defamed by Depp when one of his lawyers called her abuse allegations a "hoax."

In a post Monday on Instagram, Heard said the decision to settle was difficult.

"I never chose this," she wrote. "I defended my truth and in doing so my life as I knew it was destroyed. The vilification I have faced on social media is an amplified version of the ways in which women are re-victimised when they come forward."

The trial stretched over several months and became something of a cultural phenomenon as millions of Americans watched the televised proceedings. Ostensibly a defamation case, the trial frequently devolved into ugly mudslinging as both Depp and Heard took the stand over multiple days denying each other's abuse allegations and accusing each other of horrible behavior during their brief marriage.

At the courthouse and across the country, Depp's supporters backed him fervently, and Heard was routinely mocked as she detailed allegations of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

The ruling at the Virginia court in Depp's favor came after a judge in the United Kingdom ruled against Depp in a libel suit he brought there against a British tabloid. The judge in that 2020 case concluded that Heard had indeed been subject to abuse at Depp's hands on multiple occasions.

Woman still gets the cold shoulder from stepdaughter

DEAR ABBY: I've been married six years, and ever since we've been married, my husband's daughter has insisted that I can't come to her house that my husband has a mortgage on. I think he should tell her that if his wife isn't welcome, then he isn't.

My husband is 19 years older than I am and has health issues. I am there for him and take care of him, and I'm hurt that he doesn't speak up for me. I feel his daughter should want us to come over together for the sake of her dad. The time is coming when she and the rest of his family will have to come to our house to see him. I don't know if I would be so willing to let them, since they don't want me being part of the family.

I have talked to my husband about this and I'm getting nowhere. He now has dementia. He forgets quite a bit, and he insists it's me and not his daughter who says I'm not welcome. I'm at my wit's end. What do you think about this?

MIFFED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR MIFFED: I think there may be some relevant facts you didn't include in your letter. Does your husband's daughter resent you because of the difference in your ages? Did you have anything to do with the breakup of his first marriage? When you wrote "they" don't want you to be part of the family, exactly to whom were you referring?

Frankly, if I were in your shoes, the LAST thing I would want to do is force my way into a home where I wasn't wanted. I wouldn't be comfortable under those circumstances, and I am having trouble understanding why you would be.

If the time comes when your husband becomes too incapacitated to visit his daughter and the rest of the family, please take the high road and do the compassionate thing. Invite them in so they can be of comfort to your husband. If there is any way to fire up the peace pipe, that is the way to do it.

P.S. Because your husband holds the mortgage on his daughter's home, I HOPE he has consulted an attorney and put his wishes regarding estate planning in writing.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a new mom who is fortunate to be able to breastfeed. We've had several guests come to our house to meet the baby, and if she needs to nurse, I go to the couch and allow her to breastfeed. I don't feel the need to hide in another room in my own house when I'm comfortable on my couch with all my necessary pillows to assist.

My sister wanted to bring her new boyfriend over to meet my husband, the baby and me. Before they came, she called to ask me to refrain from "whipping out my boobs" in front of her new beau. I don't view breastfeeding as flashing, but she prioritized his comfort over mine in my own house. I don't mind using a cover to shield people from seeing my chest, but was her request valid and should I go into another room in my own home?

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

FEEDING IN THE WEST

DEAR FEEDING: Most people are aware that breastfeeding is a natural function. If "Sis" is uncomfortable with the idea of her new boyfriend seeing you breastfeed, the two of THEM should excuse themselves and go to another room or choose a time to visit between feedings.

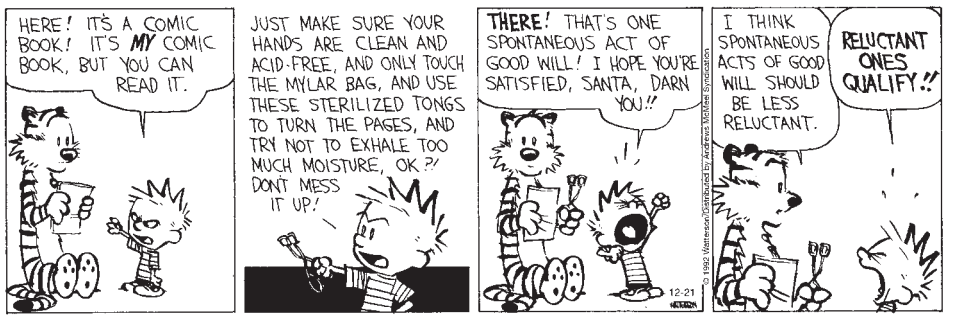
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE! IT'S A COMIC BOOK! IT'S MY COMIC BOOK, BUT YOU CAN READ IT.
JUST MAKE SURE YOUR HANDS ARE CLEAN AND ACID-FREE, AND ONLY TOUCH THE MYLAR BAG, AND USE THESE STERILIZED TONGS TO TURN THE PAGES, AND TRY NOT TO EXHALE TOO MUCH MOISTURE, OK?! DON'T MESS IT UP!
THERE! THAT'S ONE SPONTANEOUS ACT OF GOOD WILL! I HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED, SANTA, DARN YOU!!
I THINK SPONTANEOUS ACTS OF GOOD WILL SHOULD BE LESS RELUCTANT.
RELUCTANT ONES QUALIFY!!
© 1990 Watterson/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
12-21

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

"DEAR ASK A DOG, WHAT'S THE WORST PART ABOUT WINTER?"
BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK!
I AGREE
DOGGIE SWEATERS
JIM DAVIS 12-21
© 2022 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD SAYS HE'S A HORRIBLE GIFT WRAPPER SO HE CAN'T HELP.
OH! NEVER ASK FOR THAT!
KATY, IT'S LIKE NOTHING YOU'VE SEEN. WADDED CORNERS. PAPER CUTS. TAPE EVERYWHERE. THE HORROR. IT'S... IT'S...
ARE YOU OKAY?
SENSORY MEMORY. IT WAS LIKE I WAS RIGHT BACK IN IT.
www.gocomics.com
©2022 Andrews McMeel
12-21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THAT ELVIN CAN BE A REAL JERK SOMETIMES!
DID YOU SEE ALL THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS HE PUT UP JUST TO MAKE MY DECORATIONS LOOK BAD?!
BUT YOU DIDN'T PUT UP ANY DECORATIONS!
EXACTLY!
12-21

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Read quickly
5 Bouquets-to-order co.
8 New newts
12 Not pizzicato
13 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
14 Section
15 Competitor's demeanor
17 Frozen drink brand
18 Shoelace hole
19 Most recent
21 Wimbledon division
22 Attempt
23 Texter's chuckle
26 Lair
28 Beam
31 Nuptial vows
33 Speed (up)
35 Send forth
36 Tubular pasta
38 Phone bug
40 Sheeran and Harris
41 Surround
43 Greek cross
45 Kind of table
47 Congenital
51 "Like — out of ..."
52 Anonymous
54 Pudding variety
55 Mouths (Lat.)
56 401(k) relatives
57 "Cheers" order
58 Martini ingredient

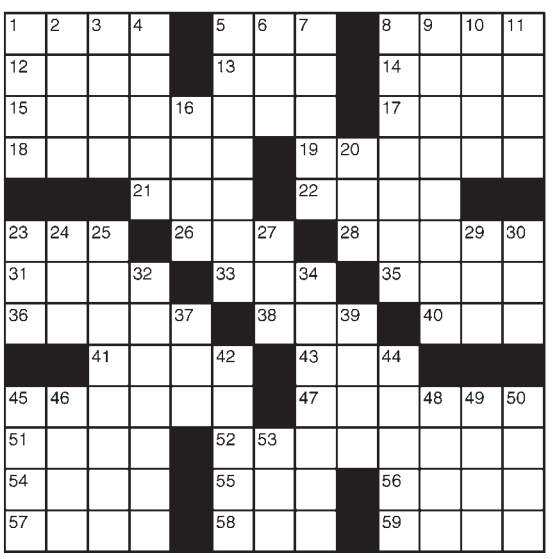
DOWN

1 Stuffing herb
2 Early supercomputer
3 Summit
4 Seasonal songs
5 Compliment
6 Spasm
7 Sword fights
8 Ideal example
9 Popular Apple app
10 "— chic!"
11 Undo a dele
16 Nourish
20 Sounds of relief
23 Balm target
24 Poetic tribute
25 Glum expression
27 Mosquito barrier
29 Cover
30 UFO passengers
32 Brandy glass
34 Papal residence
37 Before
39 Glazier's sheet
42 Clear the windshield
44 Dark
45 Low- — diet
46 Theater award
48 Aviation prefix
49 Russian ruler
50 Being, to Brutus
53 "Exodus" hero

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	E	E	R	■	A	B	E	■	R	O	B	B
P	S	A	T	■	W	O	E	■	O	P	I	E
R	A	R	E	B	O	O	K	■	S	A	L	T
Y	U	L	■	E	R	R	■	Y	E	L	L	S
■	■	■	R	E	D	■	T	U	B	■	■	■
C	A	P	O	N	■	P	A	P	Y	R	U	S
A	H	O	Y	■	G	E	M	■	R	U	S	T
B	A	V	A	R	I	A	■	S	N	E	A	D
■	■	■	L	A	T	■	E	N	E	■	■	■
L	O	B	B	Y	■	M	I	O	■	L	B	S
I	D	O	L	■	R	Y	E	B	A	G	E	L
M	E	N	U	■	U	R	I	■	A	B	L	E
B	A	K	E	■	T	A	O	■	A	T	A	D

Yesterday's answer 12-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steven Yeun, 39; Ray Romano, 65; Samuel L. Jackson, 74; Jane Fonda, 85.

Happy Birthday: An optimistic attitude will go a long way when dealing with others. If you choose to offer positive alternatives, you will build solid relationships and gain ground with those you work and have fun with regularly. Changing how you use your hard-earned cash will help you have a comfortable lifestyle. Invest in yourself and your future. Your numbers are 2, 14, 19, 28, 36, 42, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Tally up how much you've spent and where you are sitting financially. Take a step back when dealing with superiors and listen before you offer your thoughts. Ask people you know and trust to help you reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You have a choice: You can demand change or persuade others with incentives and kindness. Don't isolate yourself; generosity will help you hit a home run. Offer love and understanding, and receive the same in return. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll be quick to react. Stop to rethink your strategy before you head down a path that is hard to reverse. You want to steady your position and your plans, not start something you can't finish. Baby steps and patience will lead to victory. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Lean toward something or someone who offers truth, practicality and long-term prospects. Discuss your thoughts with someone you love or trust to provide sound advice, and you'll deepen your connection and find a common path. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Your heart is in the right place, but nothing good will transpire if you fail to follow through. Take the initiative to reach out and help those less fortunate; the effect it has will lead you in a positive direction. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Bypass conversations that have the potential to get heated. It is the heartfelt season, when differences can be set aside. Make positive changes and plans that include everyone. Personal improvement will promote better relationships with others. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put your head down and focus on what you must accomplish between now and the end of the year. Discipline and hard work will be satisfying and pay handsomely. Refuse to let trivial matters or someone trying your patience interfere with your progress. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Get into the season's spirit and join in the festivities. Reach out to those you care about and share thoughts that will enhance the way you head into next year. Don't be afraid to be unique and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Understanding will help you navigate through sticky situations with people who don't share your opinion. Build on a solid base, and the changes you bring about will hold their value. A social event will reveal someone's intentions. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Discuss the changes you want to make to your home or lifestyle with those you love and respect. The feedback you receive will encourage you to get started. You'll get more help than you think, making it easy to complete your journey. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Busy yourself with last-minute details. Get your house in order to eliminate stress and worry over matters you must address before the year ends. Don't take on someone else's problem; offer a reasonable solution and return to your to-do list. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take nothing for granted, and do whatever is possible to avoid a scene. Anger will not help, but understanding and doing what you can to help will ease stress and give you a different perspective regarding a pending problem. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are original, independent and social. You are flexible and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	1				6	9
	9					4		
2					3			
9					7			
4	8	3			9	6	1	
5			8		1			3
6			9		2			4
8			3		6			2
	2	9				8	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/21

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	5	2	7	9	4	8	6	3
8	7	3	1	6	2	4	5	9
9	4	6	5	3	8	2	7	1
7	2	9	3	8	5	6	1	4
5	3	1	4	7	6	9	8	2
6	8	4	2	1	9	5	3	7
2	9	7	6	5	1	3	4	8
3	6	8	9	4	7	1	2	5
4	1	5	8	2	3	7	9	6

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

VATICAN SYNOD OF BISHOPS **Solution: 8 letters**

S	M	C	I	L	O	T	S	O	P	A	R	I	S	H
S	Y	S	L	A	N	I	D	R	A	C	H	R	F	P
S	U	N	I	I	E	C	I	L	O	H	T	A	C	R
A	L	M	O	H	E	T	J	R	N	A	M	O	R	O
C	E	P	U	D	C	U	A	E	E	I	Ⓔ	Ⓟ	Ⓞ	Ⓟ
R	P	S	A	S	S	E	M	B	L	Y	F	L	S	H
A	S	I	E	T	D	I	T	Y	E	B	A	P	H	E
M	O	A	I	C	S	A	P	A	P	D	I	R	O	C
E	G	C	L	S	O	E	G	E	C	R	T	B	P	Y
N	E	A	I	V	N	I	A	L	I	I	H	O	E	T
T	W	O	E	A	A	C	D	T	E	A	C	H	C	I
S	N	N	N	D	E	T	V	P	A	P	A	L	A	N
L	I	C	N	U	O	C	I	M	O	R	A	L	R	I
R	E	H	T	A	F	C	C	O	Y	L	O	H	G	R
S	E	T	A	G	E	L	E	D	N	O	N	A	C	T

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 12/21

Adsumus, Advice, Apostolic, Appoint, Assembly, Bible, Canon, Cardinal, Catechism, Catholic, Chapel, Code, Council, Debate, Delegates, Diocese, Faith, Family, Father, Gospel, Grace, Harp, Holy, Hope, Justice, Laws, Mission, Moral, Papal, Parish, Peace, Penance, Pope, Prayer, Prophecy, Roman, Sacrament, Salvation, Spirit, Synod, Teach, Trinity

Yesterday's Answer: Mountains

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 49 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Huge crowds welcome Argentina team after World Cup victory

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Thousands of fans lined up in the middle of the night to try to get a glimpse of the Argentina soccer team that won one of the greatest World Cup finals of all time ahead what is scheduled to be a day of celebrations in Buenos Aires.

Members of the team, led by captain Lionel Messi, were all smiles as they descended from the plane in Ezeiza, right outside Argentina's capital, shortly before 3 a.m. Tuesday onto a red carpet that had been rolled out for the squad.

Messi was the first player from the plane carrying the World Cup, flanked by coach Lionel Scaloni, who put his arm around the captain as they walked past a sign that read, "Thank you, champions."

The players were welcomed by rock band La Mosca singing "Muchachos," a song that was written by a fan to the tune of an old song by the band and became a popular unofficial anthem for Argentine fans at the World Cup in Qatar.

AP

Argentina's Lionel Messi holds the FIFA World Cup trophy as he deplanes, with coach Lionel Scaloni, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022.

The newly crowned champions of the world boarded an open top bus and several, including Messi, could be seen singing the words to "Muchachos" while they waited for everyone to get on heading to the headquarters of the Argentine Football Association.

The bus moved at a snail's pace as fans, many of whom were waving Argentine flags, swarmed the bus on a highway, eager for a glimpse of the players as law enforcement officers tried to keep them at bay.

The players will sleep at AFA headquarters for a few hours before boarding the bus later Tuesday that will take them to the Obelisk, the iconic Buenos Aires landmark that was a sea of people Sunday afternoon after the team won the country's third World Cup, and its first since 1986.

President Alberto Fernández declared a national holiday Tuesday so the country could celebrate the victory.

The day after the streets of Argentina turned into massive parties following the Sunday victory, many kept a close eye on the flight that brought the players home to celebrate. As the plane got closer to Argentine soil, almost 200,000 people were tracking its path online and news channels gave live coverage of the arrival.

In the afternoon, people started arriving at the airport and outside the AFA headquarters in hopes of getting a glimpse of the team.

Many were also already at the Obelisk, seemingly ready to spend the night there to ensure a prime spot for Tuesday's festivities.

Several players posted photos of the plane ride on social media.

Messi held the World Cup on the plane. Nicolás Tagliafico, meanwhile, posted a photo of the World Cup buckled into an airplane seat as if it were just another passenger.

As of early Tuesday morning there were no official plans for Fernández, or any other political leaders, to take part in the celebrations despite earlier rumors that the players would go to Government House, which was offered up for the celebrations, according to Security Minister Aníbal Fernández.

The World Cup and the success of the Messi-led squad has brought much-needed good news for a country that has been stuck in economic doldrums for years, is suffering one of the world's highest inflation rates and where almost four-in-10 people live in poverty.

Fernández retweeted several messages of congratulations for the World Cup victory from other world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Thank you for this greeting President Putin," Fernández wrote on Twitter after a telephone call with the Russian leader. "Let the happiness that today unites Argentina with so many countries in the world serve as an example: Our societies need unity and peace."

Packers defeat Rams 24-12 to keep playoff hopes alive

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers aren't giving up hope they can still reach the playoffs, even as they remain multiple games below .500.

A.J. Dillon ran for two scores, Rodgers threw a touchdown pass to Aaron Jones and the Packers kept their playoff hopes afloat with a 24-12 victory over the Los Angeles Rams on Monday night amid freezing conditions. The temperature was 15 degrees (minus-9 celsius) with a wind chill of 7 just before the opening kickoff.

"We've just been practicing a little bit better," Rodgers said. "The energy's been a little bit better. It's hard to put your finger on it. We've played a couple of teams we should have beat, so that being said, it's still tough to win in the league. And I've said it earlier, I think we can beat anybody. We can also lose to anybody. But when you win a couple in a row, it starts to give you some confidence."

The Packers (6-8) likely must win out and get plenty of help to earn a fourth straight postseason berth. They visit Miami (8-6) on Sunday before hosting the Minnesota Vikings (11-3) and Detroit Lions (7-7) in their final two games.

"We know that we're in a one-game season from here on out, from here until the end of the year," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said.

Dillon put Green Bay ahead for good with a tiebreaking 8-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and also scored from 1 yard out in the third period. He ran for 36 yards on 11 carries before leaving the game midway through the second half to be evaluated for a concussion.

Rodgers went 22 of 30 for 229 yards with a touchdown and interception to win his ninth straight "Monday Night Football" start, even though the four-time MVP acknowledged he's at the stage of his career when these late kickoffs aren't so much fun. The longest "Monday Night Football" winning streak by any starting quarterback is owned by Kenny Stabler, who won 11 straight from 1975-80.

"When you're a young player, you dream about playing on Monday nights," said Rodgers, who turned 39 earlier this month. "When you're an older player, you want those noon games. So, it's past my bedtime. I'm ready to go home and go to sleep."

Rodgers' lone touchdown pass was a 7-yarder to Jones, who rushed for 90 yards and had four catches for 36 yards.

AP

Green Bay Packers running back AJ Dillon (28) celebrates a touchdown against the Los angles Rams in the first half of an NFL football game in Green Bay, Wis. Monday, Dec. 19, 2022.

The Rams (4-10) have matched the highest loss total by any defending Super Bowl champion. When John Elway retired after leading Denver to consecutive Super Bowl titles in the 1997 and 1998 seasons, the Broncos finished 6-10 in 1999.

Los Angeles played this game without several notable injured players, including three-time defensive player of the year Aaron Donald and All-Pro receiver Cooper Kupp. Quarterback Baker Mayfield made his first Rams start with injuries sidelining Matthew Stafford and John Wolford.

"This has been a real struggle in a lot of instances, a lot of adversity that we've gone through," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "But I think what we've seen from our guys is that they're going to continue to battle. They're going to finish up these last three games the right way, with the right mindset and mentality and we'll compete to the best of our ability. That's all I know how to do and I trust that that's exactly what we'll do collectively as a group."

Mayfield had rallied the Rams to a 17-16 victory over the Las Vegas Raiders on Dec. 8, less than 48 hours after they had claimed him off waivers from Carolina. Mayfield wasn't as effective Monday, going 12 of 21 for 111 yards with a touchdown and interception

His touchdown was an 8-yarder to Tyler Higbee, the first touchdown by a Rams tight end this season.

Mayfield was sacked five times while working behind an offensive line missing center Brian Allen, who injured a calf on the game's first play from scrimmage. Preston Smith recorded two sacks for Green Bay.

The Rams also got field goals of 33 and 55 yards from Matt Gay, who also sent an extra-point attempt wide right. Gay's 55-yarder matched the third-longest field goal anyone has ever made at Lambeau Field.

Mason Crosby had a 34-yard field goal for Green Bay while playing his 255th consecutive regular-season game to tie Hall of Fame quarterback Brett Favre for the longest streak in franchise history.

INJURIES

Along with the Dillon and Allen injuries, Rams LB Jake Gervase injured an ankle late in the first half.

Rams DT and three-time defensive player of the year Aaron Donald missed a third straight game with a high ankle sprain. The Rams also were missing DT Marquise Copeland (ankle), LB Travin Howard (hip) and DB David Long Jr. (groin).

Packers OT David Bakhtiari missed a second straight game as he recovers from an appendectomy.

Murray hits late free throws, lifts Hawks over Magic, 126-125

ATLANTA (AP)— Dejounte Murray hit a pair of decisive free throws with 1.3 seconds left, Trae Young had 37 points and 13 assists, and the Atlanta Hawks held off the Orlando Magic 126-125 on Monday night to snap their six-game winning streak.

Orlando went on a 12-0 run over 2:17 late in the fourth quarter to wipe out a 13-point deficit and take a 125-124 lead on Markelle Fultz's layup with 3.8 seconds remaining. Young inbounded from the sideline, and Murray drew a foul from Paolo Banchero. Murray hit both free throws, and Banchero missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

The Magic were trying for their first seven-game winning streak since January 2011. Before the surge, Orlando had lost nine in a row.

Atlanta welcomed Murray and John Collins back from injuries. Collins, who finished with 12 points, missed the last eight games and Murray, who had 17, the past five.

AP

Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young (11) dribbles past Orlando Magic center Moritz Wagner (21) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, in Atlanta.

Cavaliers 122, Jazz 99

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell scored 23 points in his first game against his former team and Jarrett Allen added 20, as Cleveland won its fourth straight.

The Cavs hold the NBA's best home record, 15-2.

Darius Garland added 17 and Cedi Osman had 22 for Cleveland, which pushed an 18-point halftime lead to 23 in the third and coasted.

Lauri Markkanen scored 24 — 22 in the first half — and Jordan Clarkson, yet another former Cavs player, added 23 for Utah, which has lost six straight on the road.

76ers 104, Raptors 101, OT

In Philadelphia, Tobias Harris hit a 3-pointer in overtime that put Philadelphia ahead to stay, and Joel Embiid had 28 points, 11 rebounds and four assists as the 76ers extended their winning streak to a season-best five games.

James Harden added 14 points for Philadelphia, which has won the first five games of a seven-game homestand, the Sixers' longest of the season.

The 76ers won despite a stellar performance from Toronto All-Star forward Pascal Siakam, whose 38-point performance was the highest point total allowed by 76ers this season. Siakam added 15 rebounds, six assists and strong defense down the stretch in a losing effort.

Spurs 124, Rockets 105

In Houston, Devin Vassell had 26 points and San Antonio rolled over Houston to snap a two-game skid.

The Spurs won the matchup of the two worst teams in the Western Conference despite missing leading scorer Keldon Johnson, who averages more than 21 points a game. Johnson was out with a bruised lower back.

Alperen Sengun had 22 points and Kevin Porter Jr. added 15 for the Rockets, who dropped their third straight.

Timberwolves 116, Mavericks 106

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards had 27 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists to lead Minnesota over the unglued Dallas, who lost star Luca Doncic and coach Jason Kidd to successive ejections late in the third quarter.

Naz Reid pitched in 27 points and 13 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who kept up their energy from a franchise-record 150-point performance to beat Chicago a night earlier.

Doncic had a season-low 19 points on 5-for-17 shooting.

Spencer Dinwiddie had 20 points and seven assists, and Christian Wood chipped in 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Mavericks, who stay in town for a rematch against the Wolves on Wednesday.

Bucks 128, Pelicans 119

In New Orleans, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 42 points and 10 rebounds in his return from a one-game absence and Milwaukee held off a late New Orleans surge.

Brook Lopez mixed in four 3-pointers with opportunistic play in the paint to score 30 points for the Bucks, who led by as many as 18 points in the fourth quarter before the Pelicans pulled to 117-114 on CJ McCollum's fade away.

Milwaukee maintained a double-digit lead for long stretches while frustrating Pelicans star power forward Zion Williamson for most of the game.

Jonas Valanciunas scored a season-high 37 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for New Orleans, but he hit just one of his career high-tying seven 3-pointers in the second half.

Thunder 123, Trail Blazers 121

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander hit a baseline jumper as time expired, and Oklahoma City defeated Portland to ruin Damian Lillard's record-setting night.

Gilgeous-Alexander drove to his left and drained a 14-foot pullup over Justise Winslow. The shot capped a 35-point performance for Gilgeous-Alexander.

Lillard made a reverse layup with 3.5 seconds remaining to tie it. He scored 28 points to surpass Clyde Drexler's franchise career scoring record. Lillard entered the night needing 21 to move ahead of him.

Lillard tied Drexler's mark on a 3-pointer in the third quarter, then broke the mark on a free throw with 1:33 left in the period. Moments later, the Thunder public address announcer informed the crowd of Lillard's accomplishment, and the crowd gave him an ovation.

Suns 130, Lakers 104

In Phoenix, Chris Paul scored a season-high 28 points, Deandre Ayton added 21 points and 11 rebounds and Phoenix rolled past Los Angeles.

The game was almost more notable for who wasn't playing instead of the action on the court. The Lakers were missing their All-Star trio of LeBron James, Anthony Davis and Russell Westbrook. The Suns were missing six players, including three-time All-Star Devin Booker.

Paul had his best scoring game of the season in Booker's absence, shooting 9 of 18 from the field, including 3 of 5 from 3-point range.

The Suns have won three straight, bouncing back after dropping five in a row. All five starters scored at least 15 points.

Hornets 125, Kings 119

In Sacramento, Calif., LaMelo Ball scored 16 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and Charlotte stopped an eight-game losing streak by holding off Sacramento.

Kelly Oubre Jr. had 31 points for the Hornets (8-23), who won for the second time in 11 games.

Ball had only three points at halftime but broke loose in the second half. The third-year guard added 12 assists and five rebounds before fouling out with 34.1 seconds left.

Gordon Hayward added 19 points, Mason Plumlee finished with 15 and Nick Richards scored 14 for Charlotte.

De'Aaron Fox had 37 points for Sacramento (16-13). Domantas Sabonis scored a season-high 28 to go with 23 rebounds and seven assists. Keegan Murray and Harrison Barnes added 11 points apiece.

Source: Lakers' Davis has foot injury, set to miss weeks

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Anthony Davis of the Los Angeles Lakers has a right foot injury that's expected to keep him sidelined for several weeks, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.

The severity of the injury was still being determined Sunday and that was keeping the team from forming a specific timetable for his return, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither Davis nor the Lakers had released any information publicly.

The Athletic first reported that Davis was facing an extended absence, and multiple media outlets also confirmed the injury status.

Before the Lakers hosted Washington on Sunday night, Darvin Ham confirmed the team has no firm timetable for Davis' return. The rookie head coach said Davis will see more specialists on Sunday night.

"The season is fairly early, and he just has to take care of his business, starting first and foremost with him getting back healthy," Ham said.

Davis — who leads the Lakers with averages of 27.4 points and 12.1 rebounds per game, numbers that had him in the NBA's MVP conversation — was injured in the first half of the Lakers' win over Denver on Friday night. He did not play after halftime.

It is yet another in a long line of injury woes for the eight-time All-Star and four-time All-NBA selection. He missed 36 of the Lakers' 72 regular-season games in the 2020-21 season, then didn't play in 42 of their 82 games last season.

Davis missed his fifth game of this season due to injury when the Lakers hosted the Wizards. He has been managing lower back pain for several weeks, but he has also been on a run of frequently spectacular play, scoring at least 25 points in his last 12 consecutive games that didn't end early due to injury.

Ham said his advice to Davis was "(to) just focus on your health, and whatever the issue is, once it gets alleviated, just start the process to get back on the floor, and that's as simple as that.

"Injuries are a big part of our league and a part of major sports in general," Ham added. "Unfortunately, he's had the injury history that he's had, but there's no time to cry over spilled milk."

The Lakers don't have a comparable replacement for Davis, but Thomas Bryant could help if he can match his performance in the second half against the Nuggets after Davis' injury. Bryant finished with 21 points and six rebounds in 23 minutes.

The Lakers have been gradually building momentum since their 2-10 start to the season, winning 10 of their past 16 games. They also suffered two of those losses because Davis failed to make last-minute free throws that likely would have iced games the Lakers eventually lost in overtime.

Davis' latest lengthy absence is a serious threat to their hopes of returning to playoff contention, but Ham is confident the Lakers can endure.

"The first priority is to take care of his health," Davis said. "The hell with what people have to say. Just block out that noise. We have a phenomenal medical staff. Really, really brilliant people within the organization who's going to make sure he has the best medical care, and then once we find out what's going on, we'll act accordingly."

Korean pros hold clinic for Saipan Little Leaguers

As part of a media familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, professional baseball players from South Korea led by SSG Landers' Kangmin Kim conducted a training clinic for Saipan Little League players last Dec. 14 at the Francisco "Tan 'Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Nearly 50 young players received training in throwing, grounding, batting, and defense from members of top professional teams in Korea, including Kim's SSG Landers, Keeum, LG Twins, and others. Kim is the 2022 MVP of the Korean Series.

The clinic ended with an autograph and picture-taking session. "It's a rare opportunity to have so many professional baseball players on island, and we were excited to have these visiting professionals share their talent with our Little League players," said MVA chair Viola Alepuyo. "With the MVA's recent MOU signed with the Korean Professional Baseball Players Association, we aim to entice more players to the Marianas for both training, publicity, and leisure opportunities."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Professional baseball players from South Korea pose for a group photo with nearly 50 players of the Saipan Little League after the clinic at the the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The players are in the Marianas as a part of a media filming project of the Marianas Visitors Authority in cooperation with MBC TV.

The players are in the Marianas to participate in a filming project coordinated by the MVA with MBC Plus, a subsidiary of MBC TV, one of the Korea's largest national TV networks. The entertainment show "SwingStar" will air in January and April 2023 and will feature professional baseball players, LPGA professional golfers, and Korean celebrities playing in a tournament at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Professional baseball players from South Korea sign autographs after a training clinic for nearly 50 players of the CNMI Little League at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

"I would like to thank the players from the various Korea Major League Baseball teams who went out of their way to hold a clinic for our Little League players while they were here," said Saipan Little League Baseball acting president A.J. Palacios Murig.

"Little League, and baseball in general, has been absent in our community for the past four years due to (Super Typhoon) Yutu and the pandemic, and clinics and events like this help boost and spark back the interest of baseball in the community. I'm very thankful, especially to (MVA Marketing specialist) Skye (Seo) and the MVA team, for making this possible and for continuing to promote our islands through sports."

Ten episodes of the golf championship in the Marianas will air on the network, generating an estimated $800,000 in ad exposure value for the destination. MBC Plus has five cable TV channels in Korea, including MBC Sports+ for sports and MBC EVERY1 for entertainment, with 2 million subscribed viewers. ***(PR)***

TOKAHAO

From Page 20

ball as for three innings, they came up empty. While Hagu La'mun's Roy Ada hit a three-run home run in the fourth inning, the rest of the batters were silenced.

Leading up to the final innings as Tokahao could almost taste the sweet taste of victory, Tokahao's offense was not done giving their pitcher a helping hand.

Jeff Cruz slammed a three-run home run, while Jojo Attao and Jerome Delos Santos recorded a home run each. Cruz ended the game with six RBIs, while Mark Villagomez and Attao hit 3 RBIs apiece.

In the last inning of the game, while Hagu La'mun was ready to hang up their cleats for the season, Tokahao added 6 more runs, ending the game, 23-11.

George David ended up winning the championship MVP award and said it was "very unexpected… and [I'm] very excited. Without teamwork and without them, I wouldn't [have] received the MVP [award]."

With that, he said about the team, "overall, we did pretty good throughout the season… It was good. It was a teamwork effort and we took it all the way to the champs."

When asked how they swept the finals after clinching third place in the regular season, he attributed it to their teamwork and that "everybody had a game plan… but it's anybody's game actually."

David Attao, coach, manager, and player for Tokahao, said that the season was "very competitive. We appreciate the league and the teams that we played against because it was very competitive."

He said their strategy in the playoffs was to outswing the other teams, but that "we wanted to play hard and respect every batter and team and come out swinging strong… These guys are clutch players, so we practice once a week, but we always communicate, which is the most important—communicate about how strategy is [going to be] everyday…"

"Thanks to BASA and players and the teams for… making us all healthy and allowing us to play on Sundays," said Attao.

Results of the individual awards will be posted in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

TEAM

From Page 20

ing the tiles in a time of 1:18.08 last Dec. 14. That beat Minerva Cabrera's 1:20.03 that she set in the 2005 Pacific Mini Games in Palau on July 27, 2005.

In the relay, the quartet of Aleksenko, Suzuki, Batallones, and Shoko Litulumar swam the 50m x 4 mixed free relay in 1:46.79 last Dec. 16 to unofficially break the record set last year in the FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi.

The previous record of 1:50.09 was held by Juhn Tenorio, Suzuki, Asaka Litulumar, and Shoko Litulumar and set on Dec. 17, 2021.

Aleksenko, Suzuki, Batallones, and Shoko Litulumar also unofficially reset the mark in the 50m x 4 mixed medley relay when they swam it in 1:58.93 last Dec. 14.

The old mark of 2:09.28 was set in the 2019 Micronesian Swimming Championships in Palau on April 4, 2019 by Lennosuke Suzuki, Juhn Tenorio, Aika Watanabe, and Sophia Gauran.

The record-setting CNMI national swimmers were coached by national coach Hiroyuki Kimura with support from the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation and the Oceania Swimming Association.

LI

From Page 20

Jacky Liu with a time of 2:36.6; third was Jireh Wang with 2:39.1; James Fan came in at 2:41.4; and Juke Chen came in at 2:58.8.

In Friday's 1,600m, Keith Ketola topped the men's open with a time of 4:56, besting 14 other runners. Dev Bachani came in second with a time of 5:05 and Jacky Liu clocked in third at 5:19.

Barbara Wang won first place in the women's open 1,600m race clocking in at 6:44. She was followed by Eunice Wu with a time of 6:56 and Eunice Xu's time of 7:11.

Zarinae Sapong is still the fastest woman on the track as she came in first in the women's open 200m sprint that was held last Friday with a time of 28:72; Sapong came in first again in the 100m sprint held on Saturday with a time of 13:78.

Second to Sapong in the 200m sprint was Casey Cruz with a time of 29:33 and third was Bernadette Horey with a time of 31:00; second in the 100m sprint was Maria Igitol with a time of 14:72.

Theodore Rodgers, a 16-year-old from Grace Christian Academy, crossed the finish line first in the men's open 100m with a time of 11:82 and in the 200m sprint with a time of 24:59.

After Rodgers in the 100m sprint was Alexander Camacho with a time of 12:00, followed by Kaipo Dikito with a time of 13:15.

Second in the 200m sprint was Cody Shimizu with a time of 25:41 and third was Caleb Cui at 26:45.

Li told *Saipan Tribune* after the race, "I feel like I could run better. Since July when I came here, I've been running. In China, I was in the track and field team, and here [at ACS], I am in the cross country team."

Ketola, who recently won the Turkey Trot, said this time around at the track, "I had a great time competing in the track and field challenge held by the athletics federation. I want to thank the federation and Mr. Robin Sapong for taking the time to organize it."

The 26-year-old Run Saipan club member added that the 1,600m is his "best track distance."

"The race was exciting, as some of the high school competitors started very fast, probably running the first 200m in around 30 seconds. I knew I just had to stay patient and try to run consistently. I was happy with my performance and I want to thank and congratulate everyone who participated and made the event memorable. I'm looking forward to upcoming races like the Christmas Island Relay and the New Year's 1-Mile Race held by Run Saipan."

Rodgers, who practices twice a week said that "the conditions on both days were good; on Saturday that was a bit more windy… In the beginning, I came into it pretty scared because I haven't been in a real race since the [Pacific] Mini Games; also not really knowing the other runner's times made me nervous," but when he won first place, he said "it felt good to see the training pay off."

Sapong, on being the fastest sprinter again, said "it was a fun meet, I'm just happy to get some runs in during the off season. Excited for the coming season next year. There's a lot of time going into building my strength back. As a team we work on plyometrics and form drills. I hope to run a new personal best next year."

Huge crowds welcome Argentina team after World Cup victory

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Korean pros hold clinic for Saipan Little Leaguers

PAGE 19

Team NMI unofficially breaks 9 records in Australia

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI National Swimming Team unofficially broke nine national records during their week-long stint in the 2022 FINA World Championships in Melbourne.

Isaiah Aleksenko unofficially broke four NMI records—the 100m butterfly, 200m butterfly, 50m freestyle, and 50m backstroke.

The 16-year-old Marianas High School student swam the 100m butterfly in 54.55 last Dec. 17 to unofficially break the 1:00.07 set by David Palacios in the 2005 Pacific Mini Games in Palau on July 25, 2005.

Aleksenko swam the 200m butterfly in 2:02.96 last Dec. 15 to unofficially reset the 2:15.09 recorded by Rezne Wong in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau on March 8, 2010.

He swam the 50m freestyle 23.31 last Dec. 16 to unofficially top Juhn Tenorio's 23.97 that he swam in the FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi in Dec. 18, 2021.

Finally, Aleksenko finished the 50m backstroke in 25.84 to unofficially break the 25.91 Kensuke Kimura swam in the Mie Winter Meet in Aichi, Japan in Feb. 18, 2018.

Jinnosuke Suzuki, meanwhile, unofficially eclipsed his own record in the 200m freestyle by timing in at 1:56.27 last Dec. 18. The previous record was 1:57.27 that Suzuki swam in the FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi in Dec. 17, 2021

Maria Batallones, for her part, unofficially obliterated Nina Mosley's record in the 50m breaststroke when she swam a 34.58 last Dec. 17. The old record was 36.97 that Mosley set in the FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China on April 5, 2006.

Batallones also unofficially reset the previous mark in the 100m breaststroke after touch-

See TEAM on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Jinnosuke Suzuki, Maria Batallones, Shoko Litulumar, and Isaiah Aleksenko pose beside the competition pool of the 2022 FINA World Championships in Melbourne, Australia.

Tokahao wins men's softball title

LEIGH GASES

Team Tokahao is the men's division champion of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball League after defeating Hagu La'mun in a sweep of the best-of-three championship series held last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The dragged out 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball League season finally came to a forgiving end with Tokahao crowning itself the men's division champion in two games against Hagu La'mun last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

With a season that started in July, dozens of rainouts and makeup games extended the season to right before the holidays. Even with that, the teams who made it to the postseason stayed strong, as Tokahao, who was third place in the regular season, fought its way to the top.

Tokahao first defeated Asahi in the semifinals, then beat Hagu La'mun, 8-6, in Game 1, and 23-11 in Game 2 to clinch the championship via sweep.

Tokahao's offense wasted no time in the final game as 11 runs came in the first inning. The top-of-the-lineup shot by Clint Quitugua started the cascade of runs against Hagu La'mun pitcher Joe Celis.

Hagu La'mun's Glen Camacho replied with a three-run home run to put them on the scoreboard. It was still too early to tell whether Game 3 is in sight or if Tokahao can maintain their 8-run lead at the end of the first inning. But by the fifth, Tokahao was up 17-11 and seemed like the championship series would end in just two games.

Tokahao pitcher George David then buckled down to work and limited Hagu La'mun's contact with the

See TOKAHAO on Page 19

Li, Ketola, Wang win 800m, 1,600m

LEIGH GASES

Runners of the 200m sprint including first place Theodore Rodgers, third from right, are seen during Day 2 of the Northern Marianas Athletics Track and Field Challenge held at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

» Sapong, Rodgers top sprints

Daniel Li won the 800m, while Keith Ketola and Barbara Wang topped the 1,600m; and in the 100m and 200m sprints, Zarinae Sapong and Theodore Rodgers sprinted the fastest during the Northern Marianas Athletics Track and Field Challenge held last Friday and Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

In the 800m race last Saturday, Daniel Li, a 16-year-old from Agape Christian School, raced against four other high school students and clocked in the fastest with a time of 2:28.3. He was followed by

See LI on Page 19